

Hafa Adai!

Was the fall of Rome a biological phenomenon? **PAGE 11**  
It's not about flirting or sexy clothing. **PAGE 11**

# Saipan Tribune

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75¢

## Adrift sailor rescued near Saipan

Rimas Meleshyus' 30-footer sailboat, *Mimsy*, is shown here docked at the Smiling Cove Marina on Saipan after Department of Public Safety Boating Safety officers towed it to the marina early Tuesday morning. Meleshyus sought help from U.S. Coast Guard due to the bad weather. He said he was out at sea for 127 days. Inset shows Meleshyus in a photo posted on social media.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

**B**oating Safety officers rescued early Tuesday morning a lone sailor who had been out at sea for about 127 days but was forced to seek help due to bad weather.

### Gusty winds scare residents, cause outages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Strong winds that had many wondering if there was a storm on Saipan

awakened many residents early yesterday morning and caused power outages in many areas. There was indeed a typhoon but it was too far

See OUTAGES on Page 4

Rimas Meleshyus was located about five miles southeast of Saipan alone on his 30-foot sailboat, *Mimsy*, which was then towed to the Smiling Cove Marina, where it is currently docked.

Three Boating Safety Unit officers led by Adrian Mendiola launched the *Impact 1200* rescue boat and located the 65-year-old Meleshyus.

Acting Department of Public  
See ADRIFT on Page 4

### Phan, 2 others found guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

A federal jury has unanimously found businessman David Trung Quoc Phan and his two co-defendants guilty of defrauding Bangla-

deshi men who were promised jobs in the U.S. and green cards in exchange for cash.

The 12 jurors deliberated for about six hours yesterday and two hours on Tuesday before coming  
See PHAN on Page 4

### 30 trees on Rota flagged for rhino beetle infestation

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources has identified 30 coconut trees in the Teksberry area on Rota as habitats of the invasive coconut rhinoceros beetles.

To contain the insect and prevent infestation of other coconut trees, DLNR will be closing off the Teksberry area starting at 6:30pm everyday.  
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### INSIDE



#### NATION

A federal judge in Hawaii blocks most of President Trump's latest travel ban.

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Amnesty International accuses Myanmar soldiers of killing hundreds of Rohingya.

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#### FOCUS

California's new normal may be more intense heat, fires, droughts and floods.

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# Local



## IPI BACKS OUTRIGGER GROUPS

The largest private sector employer in the Pacific, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, has donated to the Napu Outrigger Canoe Club, which will be participating in the Micro Cup in Guam. In this photo, IPI's Corporate Social Responsibility executive director Geri Dela Cruz hands over the ceremonial check to the group.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has donated \$1,500 to support the Micro Cup bid of Marianas Outrigger Club. Imperial Pacific's Corporate Social Responsibility executive director Geri Dela Cruz represented IPI at the donation ceremony.

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## Water service outage on Saipan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption for the Chalan Piao, San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, Oleai, San Jose, Koblerville, and Susupe areas on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017, from 8am to 5pm.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of services soon thereafter.

The interruption is required

so CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., can make the necessary repairs to a leaking 6-inch water transmission line. As a result to the repairs, a more effective and efficient water operation will be provided.

Repairs will be located in the corner of Guangdong Hardware in As Lito. Due to the closure of the southbound lane and for the safety of men

and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282 or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (CUC)

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## 'I guess we were fools'

By BEA CABRERA  
bea\_cabrera@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

That was the exasperated reply of Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Ester Muña to a number of reactions from the Legislature about the hospital's decision to increase room rates effective Oct. 4.

"I guess we were fools by thinking we were going to get some support from the Legislature to be able to take care of the cost of healthcare for the new fiscal year starting October. To keep up with utility costs, we had to take care of it as the government has not fulfilled the requirement of providing those funding to CHCC," said Muña.

"Instead of criticizing why and how we did this, figure out how you can help us," she added.

Muña pointed out that the rate hikes could have been avoided. "We knew it was coming and we were prepared for it. But we waited to see if the budget appropriation [of the Legislature] was going to come and it did not," she said.

For the just finished fiscal year, CHCC had asked for a budget of \$22 million—\$16 million for indigent care from the CNMI government and \$6.2 million from the federal government through Medicaid. Instead, the CNMI government allocated a budget of just \$825,299 to CHCC.

That's where the rate hikes come in. Muña said she communicated with the medical staff about the fact that they are under-budgeted and were not given the appropriation they asked for.

"We focused on hospital

rooms only. We are only increasing the fees of hospitalization. People have to understand that this is not only a hospital but a health system. How do you cut costs? By [making] people come and see the doctor to avoid hospitalization," said Muña.

The room rates increase was authorized by the fee schedule signed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Oct. 4.

For patients who are sick, Muña encouraged them to come and continue to access services so that they can avoid being hospitalized. "So, in a way, the idea is not to make people sick. The idea is to try and discourage hospitalization," she said.

Muña admits that what costs the most is hospitalization.

"From utility bills, medical supplies—all those things that is costing us a lot of money—is coming from hospitalization so we need to incorporate that cost in there so that we can be reimbursed," she said.

Another reason why they focus on increasing room rates is to follow procedures in submitting a Medicare cost report.

"Medicare requires us to submit a cost report and in that report, you can basically determine what your cost to charges are and come out with an amount reasonable to the cost of your services based on that cost report," said Muña.

She pointed out that the rate increase does not mean that anyone will be turned away.

"Indigents are fine. If you are indigent, we are not going to deny services because you can't pay. We have a sliding fee that shows you cannot pay. If you can't pay then we will

put you in that category."

Muna said the indigent population will still be cared for.

"It's just going to be a little higher cost because what is going to reflect is basically the cost of care," she said.

According to Muña, the reality is that it is the CNMI government who is supposed to be responsible for the indigent sector.

Since CHCC did not get the budget it was asking for indigent care, CHCC will have to find other ways to make enough money to take care of services that are supposed to be the government's concern.

Between an insured and an uninsured person, the latter

will be the most affected of all by the increase.

"We studied the population and we realized that the only people who are going to be affected are those people who can buy and afford insurance but do not. They are the ones who are going to feel this increase because they would have to pay in cash at full cost," said Muña.

The increase in rates is also a strategy to have leverage with insurance companies to pay on time.

"In the healthcare industry when you raise your rates, the insurance company has an opportunity to come to the table, 'If I pay you promptly, then will I get a discount?' The

reality is, we made room for contractual allowances. Contractual allowances make us negotiate with insurance companies that if they pay on time, we will give them a discount," said Muña.

Currently, she said, most insurance companies haven't paid CHCC and a lot of them don't have contracts except for Aetna and they pay CHCC on time.

"We have these concerns that we are sending the claims and we are not getting reimbursed on time. The leverage that we have is we can make you pay a lower rate if you pay us on time. This is the strategy that we need in this facility if we want to get paid," she said.

According to Muña, if people were surprised by the increase, that was not CHCC's intention as the undertaking is legal, authorized, and whatever they do, taking care of people is the bottom line.

"This increase in rates is not going to make us rich tomorrow. This increase in rates is just making us survive because we have to recognize that there are additional expenses and we need to pay for it."

"Rather than criticize us and argue with my decisions, I really wish the lawmakers will work with us. These doors have remained open despite the fact we haven't been getting that money," she added.

## Blanco hopes CNM driver's license exchange bill also garners support

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) hopes his bill, the CNMI version of a Guam legislation that allows eligible Commonwealth residents to use their driver's licenses in Guam, garners similar support.

Guam two weeks ago enacted Guam Bill 123-34, which extends non-commercial driver's license reciprocity to residents from the CNMI, given that proof of U.S. citizenship be provided and that their licenses are valid for at least one year.

"I'm really glad [Guam] Sen. Wil Castro took the initiative to push for this generous bill," said Blanco. He added that the Guam bill, now law, means that CNMI students attending Guam schools could take advantage of the opportunity.

"This includes interisland business owners, medical referral patients/caretakers, and so on," said Blanco.

The CNMI version has yet

to be acted on.

According to Blanco, he is expecting similar support for the bill, which likewise allows Guam residents who are U.S. citizens to use their driver's licenses in the CNMI.

"The bill has been placed on the calendar for floor action. This is the last hurdle in moving bills so I am grateful to all the members for their support throughout its introduction and committee deliberations," he said, adding that House Speaker Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan) has yet to call for a session.

"I look forward for it to be entertained in the next session," said Blanco.

Currently, CNMI law only allows a 30-day validity period for individuals holding non-CNMI driver's licenses. Beyond 30 days, they would have to apply for a driver's license valid in the CNMI. (*Erwin Encinare*)

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**PHAN**

From Page 1

out with the guilty verdict.

Phan was found guilty of two counts of mail fraud, three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting, and one count of fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

Muksedur Rahman, a welder, was found guilty of two counts of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

Md. Rafiqul Islam, also a welder, was found guilty of one count of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

Phan appeared to be holding back tears, while brothers Rahman and Islam remained calm when a court staff read the verdict at 3:47pm. They will be sentenced on March 9, 2018.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge John C. Coughenour, who is presiding over the case, allowed the three to remain at liberty pending their sentencing.

Phan's lawyer, Steven Pixley, expressed disappointment with the verdict, saying they are looking at filing an appeal.

Defense attorneys Robert T.

Torres and Bruce Berline, counsel for Rahman and Islam respectively, refused to comment.

Assistant U.S. attorneys Eric O'Malley and James Benedetto prosecuted the case.

In a statement after the verdict, Shawn N. Anderson, the acting U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, said that the CNMI has been plagued by illegal recruitment scams for more than 20 years.

Anderson said the scams are difficult cases to investigate and prosecute.

He said every CW-1 permit approved for a sham employer for a non-existent job represents one less nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center, one less power plant operator for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., or one less worker for the CNMI economy.

"The U.S. Attorney's Office will continue to pursue these cases at every opportunity," he said.

Anderson said that part of the evidence in the case were bank records obtained from the Bangladesh government via a mutual legal assistance letter, or MLAT—the first NMI district case in which foreign evidence was obtained



Muksedur Rahman enters the Horiguchi Building in Garapan as his counsel, Robert T. Torres, (partly hidden) and defense counsel Bruce Berline wait for the defendants to arrive for the announcement of the verdict yesterday afternoon.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



Businessman David Trung Quoc Phan walks on his way to the District Court for the announcement of the verdict yesterday afternoon.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

through the MLAT process.

Anderson said the case against the defendants is

Phan's fiancée, Analyn Nunez, and Rahman's wife, Shahinur Akter, were earlier

acquitted. Another defendant, Zeaur Rahman Dalu, already pleaded guilty and testified for the U.S. government.

According to the U.S. government, each of the victims



Md. Rafiqul Islam carries his baby in a car seat toward the District Court for the announcement of the verdict yesterday afternoon.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

paid over \$10,000, but when they arrived on Saipan in April of 2016, they were not given work as promised.

The government named five victims, all Bangladeshis, in the case.

Defendant Md. Rafiqul Islam, and unindicted co-conspirators in Bangladesh recruiting the men, collected large fees from them, and deposited them into the bank accounts of defendants' family members in Bangladesh.

Defendant Rahman coordinated the recruitment and employment of the victims from Saipan.

A necessary part of the scheme required the purported employer, Phan, to mail fraudulent applications to U.S.

Citizenship and Immigration Services in order to obtain CNMI-only work authorization permits or CW-1.

Phan is president of United Brothers, which operates TBK Auto Cares in Lower Base.

The victims were also "coached" to lie to U.S. Embassy personnel in Dhaka, Bangladesh during their visa interviews. The defendants told the victims not to admit they had paid any fees for their jobs, upon pain of losing all the money they had already paid.

Special agents and task force officers from the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations conducted the investigation.

The trial began last Oct. 2.

**OUTAGES**

From Page 1

away, in Palau.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary Camacho said the winds were the cause of most the power interruptions on Saipan.

"The winds forced deteriorated power pole hardware to fail on Feeders 1, 4, and 7 on...Saipan. In addition, fallen trees also contributed to other interruptions on these feeders," he said.

U.S. National Weather Service warning coordination meteorologist Charles "Chip" Guard told *Saipan Tribune* that the strong winds were associated with strong thunderstorms that moved across the islands in the early morning hours Wednesday.

Guard said they had a special weather statement out for winds up to 40 miles per hour but not as strong as the ones Saipan received.

"We did not have an indication of winds that strong on the radar or from our weather balloon," he said.

He said the thunderstorms are associated with a complex monsoon system that extends from the South China Sea eastward through Typhoon Lan to an area well northeast of Saipan.

"The winds you received were not directly associated with the typhoon to the west," Guard said.

As of 1pm yesterday, Typhoon Lan, which had maximum sustained winds at 75 miles per hour, was moving north. Its center was 390 miles north-northwest of Koror, 450 miles west-northwest of Yap, and 845 miles west of Guam.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam, Typhoon Lan will continue to move away from Yap and Palau and stay well west of the Marianas. Lan will also continue to intensify over the next few days.

prompted Boating Safety officers to respond aboard the DPS rescue boat.

Tarkong said their initial information is that the sailboat had a damaged sail and was drifting about 16 miles southeast of Saipan at about 2am, and his sails got damaged.

There was a high surf advisory in effect at that time, Tarkong said, and southeast swells were 9 to 11 feet high, with east winds at 15-

Still, acting governor Arnold I. Palacios advised the public yesterday to avoid venturing near exposed reef lines and beaches, especially those facing south and west, as rip current will be life threatening.

The Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency also issued a precautionary advisory as high surf

will produce beach erosion and dangerous swimming conditions.

Yesterday, the Public School System cancelled classes due to the inclement weather and power outages in many public schools, while some church activities for children were suspended.

Education Commissioner Cynthia De Leon Guerrero cancelled classes on Saipan and Tinian and ordered the inspection for all electrical hazards, flooding and debris in all schools.

Classes in private schools such as Saipan International School, Mt. Carmel School,

25 knots.

Meleshyus told police that he got caught in a tropical disturbance about 16 miles southeast of Saipan at about 2am, and his sails got damaged.

Unable to operate the vessel, he contacted the U.S. Coast Guard via his marine radio, requesting for help. His radio died out and he was without communications as the vessel drifted closer to Saipan until the rescue came.

Brilliant Star School, Eucon International School, The Montessori School, and Saipan Community School prevailed despite the bad weather. The only private school that suspended classes yesterday was the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School.

Yesterday

was normal operations for the Northern Marianas College and government agencies.

On Tinian, the cause of

power outages were also primarily due to failed power pole hardware affected by the strong winds, according to Camacho.

"Feeders 1, 2 and 4 were off line from 3am through 10:30am and Feeder 4 lasted until 12:30pm," he said.

CUC linemen were not able

to start doing damage assessment and repairs until 6am.

The power supply on both

islands is back to normal as CUC crews have made all the necessary repairs to the systems.

"The crews have and will

continue to assess the power distribution systems and address any problems accordingly," Camacho said.

When asked about the strong winds, a staff of the CNMI Homeland Security said there was a high wind advisory at 4:30am yesterday.

South to southwest winds had speeds of 30 to 40 miles per hour, with gusts up to 60 miles per hour.

He said the strong winds, which lasted until 6am, were not because of Typhoon Lan but just from bad weather.

Another wind advisory was issued from 2pm to 7pm yesterday due to southwest winds that were at 20 to 35 miles per hour, with gusts of up to 45 miles per hour in heavy rainshowers.

Saipan residents felt strong winds between 4:30am and 6am as items and clothes placed outside houses and apartments were blown out.

Small trees were toppled while palm trees' leaves were

ripped off. Debris, leaves, and small tree branches were seen littering many roads.

Jerry, 50, said he was awakened at 4:30am from the noise coming from empty water gallons that were rolling outside their apartment unit in As Lito.

"I thought my neighbors had a fight. When I opened our door, I saw our empty water gallons as well as our neighbors' rolling and being dragged back and forth," Jerry said.

He said the winds were so strong that they also managed to move the jugs filled with water and swept chairs and tables outside the apartment units.

Rina, 25, a resident of Kagman, said it made her wonder whether Typhoon Lan had moved to the CNMI.

Rina said it reminded her of the destruction brought by Typhoon Soudelor in 2015. When she left the house yesterday morning, there was no power at the house and debris were scattered on the road.

*(With Bea Cabrera)*

island in Fiji.

"He indicated that he was drifting with the current and had no idea where he'd end up," Prime said.

He said he has known Meleshyus for three years now and that they often met at Starbucks and chat when Meleshyus was in Hilo, Hawaii.

"He slowly sails happily onward toward an unknown destiny which only he understands," Prime said.

**ADRIFT**

From Page 1

Safety spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong said yesterday that the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam received a distress call from Meleshyus on Tuesday at 2am.

USCG Guam then informed the Emergency Management Office, which then informed DPS about the distress call, Tarkong said. That

writer and sailor from Hawaii, writes a blog since June 21, 2017, dedicated to Mimsy's voyages.

In his latest post last Aug. 2, Prime said Meleshyus' last contact via his satellite communicator was on July 30, 2017, at 1:19pm.

Prime said Meleshyus stated he had been calling for assistance on his radio but got no reply. At that time, Prime said, Mimsy's last location was 15 miles northeast of an

CNMI Quarantine and Department of Lands and Natural Resources personnel chop down affected coconut trees and prepare the debris for incineration.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## 30 coconut trees on Rota flagged for rhino beetle infestation

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources has identified 30 coconut trees in the Tweksberry area on Rota as habitats of the invasive coconut rhinoceros beetles.

To contain the insect and prevent infestation of other coconut trees, DLNR will be closing off the Tweksberry area starting at 6:30pm everyday.

DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente met with Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig yesterday to discuss these ongoing containment and eradication efforts. Benavente was informed by the CNMI Quarantine team about the infested coconut trees in the Tweksberry area.

"The Division of Agriculture, along with our Rota Quarantine team, is working alongside [U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service] officials and University of Guam representatives to survey the contaminated areas and will continue to conduct the transferring of all green waste."

"At this time, we're informing the general public that Tweksberry area will be closed off every day at 6:30pm until further notice to prevent spreading," Benavente said.

Early last week, James Manglona of CNMI Forestry-Rota said that over 14 coconut rhino beetle breeding traps have been deployed and that an islandwide assessment with the forestry team is ongoing.

"Our team has initiated the removal of affected coconut trees and incineration continues," Manglona said.

The possible presence of coconut rhinoceros beetles on Rota was discovered only last week after a coconut tree fell to the ground. According

to Manglona, 20 adult beetles and many grubs were found in the rotting trunk of the tree.

CNMI State Forester Victor Deleon Guerrero had said that specimens were collected and sent to Guam for professional review.

The acting DLNR secretary at the time, Augustin Kaipat, had said that Dallas Berringer of USDA-APHIS had been notified by Rota Quarantine and that he has instructed to have the specimens of adult and larvae sent to Guam for examination.

The specimens will be reviewed by a National Identifier, who will give the legal authority to provide any support for survey, eradication, and control efforts "and we anticipate official species confirmation toward the end of [this] week," said Kaipat.

Benavente said that incineration and containment is currently the best possible solution due to limited resources and saltwater saturation.

"At this time, we are also trying to contain the coconut rhino beetle in this area to prevent them from migrating further outward or elsewhere. We are utilizing chainsaws to remove affected trees."

"Coconut rhino beetles hit Guam 10 years ago, made their way to Hawaii four years ago, and we've maintained quarantine efforts for an entire decade and we plan to eradicate these pests as aggressively as needed."

"We commend our teams, the mayor of Rota, the Office of the Governor, and our federal partners for their assistance," Benavente said.

To report a sighting, call CNMI Forestry at 256-3321 or Department of Lands and Natural Resources at 322-9834. (*Saipan Tribune*)

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy fifth birthday to our princess, Jihan Jewel D. Delos Reyes! Much love, kisses, and birthday wishes on your special day. Love Mommy, Daddy, and your sisters.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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## House committee to step into CHC rate hike fray

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinaires@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

While the chairperson of the Senate health committee opposes room and board rate increases at the Commonwealth Health Center, its counterpart in the House of Representatives seeks answers on whether the rate increases are necessary.

In a statement, House Committee on Health chair Rep. Jose Itibus (R-Saipan) said his committee would "find out more details" about the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s room and board rate increases.

Itibus said he was "caught [by] surprise" when he learned that CHCC would be increasing its room and board rates by at least 21 percent across the board, depending on the type of room and type of services associated with the room.

Similar to what Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) related, Itibus also received calls from the public about the increase.

When *Saipan Tribune* reached out to Itibus, he said he would "not really comment too much about it" as he would like to meet first with the CHCC board of trustees

and CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña.

"Is it really necessary or is it about time? I will meet with my committee, if not this week

then next week," said Itibus in a statement, adding that he wishes to find out first the reasoning behind the increase.

In a Monday statement, the

corporation informed the public as well as insurance providers that it is updating its fees and charges for room and board. These update were referred to as "necessary to keep up with the increasing costs of healthcare services in the CNMI."

The CHCC statement noted that the last time the hospital adjusted its fees and charges was way back in 2012. It said the new rates became effective since Oct. 4, 2017.

The rate increases range from at least 21 percent to 156 percent.

## Japanese band to raise funds for 2 groups

tsunami victims in Japan.

Nippon General Trading Corp. will be bringing the band to Saipan. Entry fee is \$40, with one free drink. Customers will need to order food. For only \$20, get a sirloin steak dinner.

The last time G-GAP was on Saipan was to benefit the

The Japanese band G-GAP will be performing once more at the Country House Restaurant in Garapan this November to benefit Medecins San Frontiers (Doctors without Borders) and Saipan Care for Animals.

The band's fundraising concerts will be held on Nov. 10 and 11, 2017. Doors open

homa tornado victims in 2013 and in 2014 and 2015 to the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., a non-profit advocacy group.

For more information about G-GAP's upcoming concert, call the Country House Restaurant at 233-8223 or 233-1906 or email contact@countryhouse.co.jp. (Bea Cabrera)



## MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, October 23, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

### MEETING AGENDA

#### 1) Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
- a. Regular Board Meeting - September 19, 2017

#### 2) Public Comments

#### 3) Committee Reports

1. Finance –
  - a. Fund Status Report – September 2017

#### 4) New Business

1. NMIFA Soccer Training Center
2. Architectural and Engineering Contract Renewal

#### 5) Miscellaneous/Announcements

#### 6) Executive Session

#### 7) Adjournment

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh

Chairwoman, MVA Board of Directors

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Colour Palace, Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Colour Palace, Inc. is proposing to occupy an existing building structure for warehouse. This use is classified as "Warehousing" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Tract No. 22706-5 along Isa Drive in Capital Hill. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: October 26, 2017  
Time: 5:00 pm  
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio  
Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, October 25, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
B & K Corporation  
dba Mariana Breeze

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. B & K Corporation dba Mariana Breeze is proposing to process distilled wines and liqueurs for retailing and wholesaling. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Tract No. 22597-R2 in Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: October 26, 2017  
Time: 5:00 pm  
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio  
Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, October 25, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
JKB Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. JKB Corporation is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building structure with 15 units to operate a "Bed & Breakfast". This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 016 D 19 in China Town. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: October 26, 2017  
Time: 5:00 pm  
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio  
Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, October 25, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Jiang Zheng Group Inc.  
dba Shanghai Guest House

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Jiang Zheng Group dba Shanghai Guest House is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building structure consisting of 8 units to operate a motel. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H.86-1 in Sadog Tasi. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: October 26, 2017  
Time: 5:00 pm  
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio  
Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, October 25, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality  
Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
www.crm.gov.mp



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing on the proposed construction and operation of the Zen Homes project. The Zen Homes project is a four story elongated residential apartment building with thirty-five 3-bedroom units and nine 2-bedroom units, a total of 44 units altogether. Each unit will have a terrace, kitchen, living room area, dining room and a laundry room. Included as part of the project are parking spaces, lightings, driveways and landscaping. The project site is located in Gualo Rai, Saipan, on a privately leased property identified as Lot Number 1877-R-3.

**The public hearing for this project is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 5PM, at the American Memorial Park Theater.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Zen Homes project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro  
Acting Director  
Division of Coastal Resources Management

# High court affirms trial court's restitution order

The Supreme Court affirmed yesterday the trial court's restitution order in *Commonwealth v. Mendiola*, 2017 MP 10.

Patrick P. Mendiola had ap-

pealed the amount of restitution imposed by the trial court as a part of his sentence for his role in an attempted burglary of copper wire.

Mendiola brought two issues on appeal: whether there was enough evidence to support the trial court's valuation of the copper wire; and

whether the trial court abused its discretion when it failed to consider the salvage value of the damaged copper wire in calculating restitution.

in specific situations.

Moreover, even the jurisdictions that did consider salvage value still acknowledged the broad discretion trial courts have

when determining the appropriate amount of restitution. The high court concluded the trial court did not abuse its discretion when it declined to deduct the salvage value of the damaged copper wire from the restitution amount.

The high court's full opinion is available at <http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme17.html>.

For further information, contact the Supreme Court at 236-9715. (PR)

## CRIME OF THE WEEK Purse-snatching incident

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a robbery incident that occurred at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao.

At about 9:07pm, a police officer was in the area when security approached him, stating that a tourist just had her purse snatched.

Police learned the victim, a 31-year-old Asian female, was at the beach having a meal when she was approached by a young local male, one of three suspects.

The suspect greeted the victim and raised his hand to high-five the victim. As the victim lifted her arm, a second

### SCC, ISLAND TRAINING SOLUTIONS

Training on customer service and suggestive selling for the holidays

With the holidays right around the corner, there is no better time to give your employees the gift that keeps on giving: training that is sure to boost your business's overall performance as your employees increase their ability to provide top level service.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Island Training Solutions present "Customer Service & Suggestive Selling," a training seminar that is guaranteed to motivate your employees while preparing for the holiday rush. It is essential that your team is ready and willing to serve with excellence.

With the increase of business development on our island, this training seminar will allow participants to retain and grow client relationships by having meaningful conversations, to ask key questions that engage, and be able to model appropriate gestures to provide a meaningful experience.

Participants will also learn how to upsell, cross-sell, and suggestive sell. These are essential practices that successful retail businesses use in their

### UOG's Storyboard Journal now accepting creative submissions

*Storyboard: A Journal of Pacific Imagery*, the University of Guam's literary journal, is seeking stories, poems, lyrical essays, and visual art that address the theme "Mumun Linahayan: Revolutions" for its 17th issue.

The call for submissions is open until Dec. 1, 2017.

All submissions are welcome from published or unpublished writers in or from Oceania, or

dark baseball cap.

Suspect No. 3 is described as a local male and was wearing a red T-shirt and a pair of black short pants.

All three suspects appeared to be teenagers.

The items stolen include a beige-colored woven handbag, containing a gray wallet with coins and \$150 cash, a Samsung J7 cell phone worth \$600,

assorted makeup, an anti-insect spray, and hotel room key.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use its website at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net). Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (*Crime Stoppers*)



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**Call: 233-4673**

# Japanese ukuleles donated to Marianas festival

One of Japan's premier ukulele manufacturers, KIWAYA Corp., has donated ukuleles and various accessories to the 3rd Annual Marianas Ukulele Festival, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Founded in 1919, KIWAYA ukuleles are well known and highly sought after throughout Asia.

Yusuke Saito, a highly respected festival producer, promoter, and musician from Japan, also donated four ukuleles to the upcoming Marianas ukulele festival.

"It is a pleasure to support the Marianas Ukulele Festival and I am confident this year's festival will be a great success," said Saito. The donated ukuleles will be used as raffle prizes on the day of the event.

Other event partners include of the ukulele festival are the Marianas Visitors Authority, Commonwealth Council for

Arts and Culture, T Galleria DFS, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, KKMP, Pacific Development Inc., Kinpachi Restaurant, Top Development Inc., IT&E, Island Training Solutions, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), Burger Comer Magliari, Marianas Medical Center, Robert T. Torres Law Office, Serenti Hotel, Triple J Enterprises, Pacific Islands Club, Marianas Variety, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Dave's Electronics, Saipan Apparel, Star Sands Plaza (I Love Saipan), Herman's Modern Bakery, and R&M Printers.

The Marianas ukulele festival is a fun, family event featuring continuous live entertainment, local food and arts and crafts booths, ukulele workshops/demonstrations, raffle drawings and surprises. It is free and open to the public.

Several highly established ukulele performers from Asia



KIWAYA Corp. president Kyoko Hara presents the company's donation to JazzoomCafe, one of the special guest performers at this year's Marianas Ukulele Festival.

will be featured, including JazzoomCafe, Mariko Uchiumi, Yusuke Saito, and Nanaco

from Japan; Blues Lee, Vivian Kim and Ukulele Ensemble from Korea; and Vanessa Ding



Yusuke Saito is donating four ukuleles to be raffled off at the Marianas Ukulele Festival on Saturday.

from Taiwan.

Local CNMI performers include the Saipan Community School, Alana'ia, Tata Lino Olopai and Ray Tebuteb, Sunset Cruisers, FESTPAC Warriors, Da Kine, Demalyn Pagarao, Jose Carreon and Juan Ichihara, Nick Sablan, and the Ukituki Band, among others.

Workshops are scheduled from 12pm to 2pm, and open mic sessions will also be available for spontaneous performances.

Any ukulele players/groups interested in performing at the festival should contact Larry Lee at [marianasukulefest@gmail.com](mailto:marianasukulefest@gmail.com) or call 285-7127, or Gordon Marciano at 285-1195. Anyone interested in supporting the festival through cash or in-kind contributions should contact the same.

For more information, visit [www.marianasukulelefestival.org](http://www.marianasukulelefestival.org). (PR)

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### **Renewed PH passports now being released**

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, is releasing passports to those who renewed their passports last Sept. 8, 9, 10, and 11, 2017. You can pick up your new passports at Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Building D, second floor, at the top of the Mini-Mart Store, Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm is break time). Please bring your old passport and receipt. For more details, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. (PR)

### **Free seminar on marketing**

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will be offering a free business seminar called "Marketing on a Budget" at the Commonwealth Development Authority boardroom today, Oct. 19, from 8:30am to 10am. It will be presented by Donna Krum, president of Friends First Marketing, Inc. To register, contact the SBDC office at 664-3018 or visit <http://pisbdcn.ecenter-direct.com/events>. (PR)

### **Military training at Farallon de Medinilla**

The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, Oct. 19, from 8:30am to 12:30pm and 4pm to 8pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-3209. (PR)

### **Kagman schools' PTSA meeting**

The Kagman cluster of schools will be having a PTSA meeting today, Oct. 19, 2017, at 5pm at the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Please call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

### **OVR to host Employer Forum**

The State Rehabilitation Council and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, in partnership with San Diego State University Research Foundation's Interwork Institute, will be conducting their triennial "Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment Project" with employers on Oct. 24 and 25, 2017 (select a date for participation only) from 1pm to 2:30pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

OVR highly encourages all employers to take advantage of the "Employer's Forum" as it will be both informative and beneficial for their organization. Employers comprise a new category and dialogue with employers will center on their business needs and the opportunities for inclusion and innovation.

If you have any questions, email Joseph B. Roberto at [jroberto@ovrgov.net](mailto:jroberto@ovrgov.net) or contact OVR at 322-6537 or 322-6538. (PR)

### **Casting call for FOA Christmas show**

In a festive mood, the ladies of the Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society will stage

Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. The auditions will be held at the Marianas High School on Wednesdays, Oct. 18 and Oct. 25, starting at 6pm. Show dates will be Dec. 15, 16, and 17. For more information, contact Marilou at 256-9540 or email [saipanfoa@gmail.com](mailto:saipanfoa@gmail.com), subject line: Christmas Show. (PR)

### **Kagman Community Church offers free rides to church**

Kagman Community Church is offering free rides to church for anyone in the Kagman area. Rides are offered every Sunday for the 6pm worship service. The Sunday worship service includes music, a Bible study, a separate children's Bible study, and a snack. Rides are also offered to the free, monthly Saturday community breakfast. This is held the last Saturday of the month at 9am. KCC also has a monthly potluck on the last Sunday of the month at 5pm. Please call Zack at 789-8071 if you would like a ride. All ages are welcome. (PR)

### **PH consulate to hold NMI outreach**

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, will conduct a mobile consular outreach in the CNMI from Nov. 13 to 17, 2017 (Monday to Friday) at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 9am to 6pm. Those who wish to renew their passport, submit your application at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Building D, second floor (top of the Mini-Mart Store), Monday to Friday, 9am

to 5pm (12pm to 1pm, break time). For any inquiry about passport renewal, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. (PR)

### **FOA movie night to feature *The BFG***

Friends of the Arts will be hosting another Friday Night at the Movies this Oct. 20, starting at 7:30 pm, at the Navy Hill baseball field, featuring the movie *The BFG*. Bring your own chairs, relax and enjoy a night. You can bring food and we'll also sell snacks. Entrance fee is \$3 for children under 11 and \$5 for adults and children aged 11 or older. FOA will reschedule for Saturday, Oct. 21, starting at 7:30pm, if it rains on Friday. (PR)

### **Limited tickets for 'Ultimate Drag Queen' on Nov. 4**

In celebration of their 25th year anniversary in the CNMI, the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club will host a fundraiser called "The Ultimate Drag Queen 2017" on Nov. 4, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. VIP tickets cost \$25 and general admission is \$15. Proceeds from the event will be used for the club's community projects. For more details, call club president Annamae Adaza at 285-4388, vice president Lourdes Ortiz at 785-2306, VP Leony Mendoza at 287-7563, secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or Ernie Molina at 789-8212. (PR)

### **Riddle of the Exporter training**

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will be offering a "Riddle of the

Exporter" training on Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 8am to 5pm, at the Pacific Islands Club, Napu Room. It will be presented by Elyse Eriksson, MBA, CGPA. This seminar is supported by the CNMI Department of Commerce and Commonwealth Development Authority. To register, contact the SBDC office at (670) 664-3018 or go to <http://pisbdcn.ecenter-direct.com/events>. To make a payment, contact Christy Kintol at CDA at 234-6245 Ext. 310. (PR)

### **Free entrepreneurship training**

As part of its Entrepreneur Training Program, the Latte Training Academy is inviting aspiring entrepreneurs to attend their first free training on "Making Your Dream Into a Success," on Oct. 25 at the Latte Training Academy Lab (third floor, Marianas Business Plaza). This training is being held as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Business Enterprise Grant program. Under this program, the Latte Training Academy, Inc. is providing specialized training and technical services to help new entrepreneurs navigate the CNMI's unique business landscape, as well as tailor their businesses to the specific conditions of the economy.

To register or for more information, visit [www.lattetrainingacademy.com](http://www.lattetrainingacademy.com). (PR)

### **CNMI-OSHA outreach training on Saipan**

The CNMI-OSHA Consultation Program will be conducting a free outreach training on Saipan on Oct. 24 (Tuesday) and Oct. 26, 2017 (Thursday),

starting at 9am on both days, at the CNMI-OSHA Consultation Office training room.

Private sector employers interested in learning about OSHA injury and illness recordkeeping and reporting requirements are invited to participate. Seats are limited, so call Elaine Pangelinan at 664-3156 or email to [Elaine.pangelinan@gmail.com](mailto:Elaine.pangelinan@gmail.com) to reserve your seats.

Outreach training for Rota and Tinian will be announced at a later date.

This program is voluntary, is not required by OSHA, and does not meet the training requirements of OSHA standards. (PR)

### **Employment expert here**

Dr. Chaz Compton, Ed.D., CRC of the San Diego State University Research Foundation's Interwork Institute will be in the CNMI on Oct. 23-27, 2017, will visit the islands, facilitate focus group meetings, and engage CNMI employers in meaningful conversations about their unique business needs. There will also be a discussion about the progress the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is making in reaching out to employers regarding employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

On Saipan, Compton will be at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Oct. 24 and 25, from 1pm to 2:30pm.

On Tinian, Compton will be at the Northern Marianas College campus on Oct. 26 from 1pm to 3pm.

On Rota, Compton will be at the Sinapolo Youth Center on Oct. 27, from 1pm to 3pm. (PR)

# 'Delicious Guys' savor Saipan shoot



Upcoming episodes of Korea's Comedy TV's "Delicious Guys" will feature four celebrities sampling different cuisine at various Saipan restaurants. The Saipan episodes will air on three consecutive Fridays beginning on Oct. 20, 2017.

The hosts—Minsang Yoo, Junhyun Kim, Seyoon Moon, and Minkyung Kim—and 32 Comedy TV production crew members were on Saipan from Sept. 26 to Oct. 1, 2017, on a familiarization tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"The celebrities—and in fact, the whole TV produc-

tion crew—were excited to have the opportunity to learn about Chamorro and Carolinian hospitality and culture," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Several of them expressed the desire to return with family or loved ones and to visit Tinian and Rota as well."

Dining venues visited included the Garapan Street Market, Fiesta Resort & Spa's Joyful Dinner Show, The Shack, Surf Club, Namdaemun, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, IHOP, and Kensington Hotel Saipan's East Moon restaurant.

Although the show's main

theme is food, "Delicious Guys" will also promote and highlight the Marianas as the perfect destination for family and leisure lovers.

The program will be released on its Comedy TV, as well as on its various social media channels including Facebook, YouTube, Naver TV Cast (the Korean version of YouTube), Instagram, and Twitter. The estimated ad value for the Marianas is \$314,000.

The filming was further supported by Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Kanoa Resort Saipan for accommodations and Jeju Air for airfare. (MVA)

Talent and production crew of Korea Comedy TV's "Delicious Guys" visits the Surf Club on Sept. 28, 2017. The show will air three episodes on the Marianas, which will bring the destination an estimated \$314,000 in ad value. **MVA**

## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



## INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW-18-IFB-002

### CONSTRUCTION OF SAN VICENTE CENTRAL PARK, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for Construction of San Vicente Central Park, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **October 19, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 7, 2017, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 9, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9829/9838 no later than ten (10) calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-18-IFB-002". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:30 a.m. local time November 22, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:30 a.m. local time, November 22, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **November 22, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **December 1, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:30 a.m. local time, December 6, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **11:00 a.m. local time, on November 22, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **\$70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Gov't Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Peter P. Camacho  
Acting Secretary of Public Works

Herman S. Sablan  
Director of Procurement & Supply

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## #MeToo, I see you, and #YesIHave

By CRAIG LANCASTER

The Dallas Morning News



Craig Lancaster is the author of seven novels and a collection of short stories. He lives in Billings, Mont. He wrote this column for The Dallas Morning News.

The #MeToo posts flooding my Facebook newsfeed—and yours, no doubt—demand a hashtag in response. Not as a rebuttal, but as a show of solidarity and a claiming of responsibility.

This week, as I fought off an attack of nerves, I posted mine: #YesIHave.

Yes, I have been too aggressive in my interest in a woman.

Yes, I have had the gall to be galled that someone didn't find me as appealing as I thought she should have.

Yes, I have told jokes that reduced women to how they looked or their physical attributes. And, yes, I have laughed at others' such jokes.

Yes, I have said wholly inappropriate things in wholly inappropriate situations.

As a social construct, it's interesting to see the way the Harvey Weinstein story has shaped a national conversation. Media attention blows up. More revelations pour forth. Lines get drawn. Debates flare in the middle of the issue and on the periphery. I've asked myself why, a year ago, I loudly and repeatedly denounced then-candidate Donald Trump for his misogyny but have had little to say about Weinstein (or my own errant ways, tame though they may be in comparison).

My justification—that I expect more moral character from a president than a Hollywood mogul—might well be a human response, but it only perpetuates the problem we have. We (eventually, maybe) respond to the most damnable abuse but do little to break down the systemic reasons it exists so pervasively. I have no grand answers about how to do this. I can only start with me and radiate outward.

I have been slow to recognize that the power structures in almost every facet of life make my journey easier than those of the women who have worked and lived alongside me. I have failed to acknowledge everyday situations where I blithely go about my business while women I know have to face fear, lack of comfort, even danger. I'm left to wonder how many times I benefitted from this dynamic without realizing it, or, worse, how many times I capitalized on it knowing full well I'd played an advantage I never earned.

A dear friend of mine, the novelist Sheila Redling, posted this the day I decided to share my #YesIHave declaration: "You nice guys—and I'm blessed knowing so many truly nice and decent men—we don't need you to keep us safe. We need you to believe us, give us room, and police your own."

There, in a single paragraph, was the good and the bad from where I've been living for 47 years. I am a good man, as my parents raised me to be. I'm also a good man who can do better. Who can listen more. Who can be more vigilant. Who can learn. I'm grateful for moments that remind me I'm still a work in progress, even as I charge hard toward the mid-century mark.

That's encouraging in its way, if humbling. It means I haven't

See #METOO on Next Page

## END OBAMACARE

I'm cutting off your nose to save my face.

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## Decimating America's tourist economy

By MARKOS KOUPLANAKIS  
Special to McClatchy



Markos Kounalakis is a senior fellow at Central European University and visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution. Contact him at markos@stanford.edu or on Twitter @KounalakisM.

**S**AN FRANCISCO—Brown soot-filled skies darken this San Francisco day as homes and fields burn a few miles north in Napa and beyond. It is the worst regional fire here in generations.

Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and now Northern California—tourist destinations all—are reeling from a death toll and economic hit brought by hurricanes, floods and fires. Rebuilding everywhere will be expensive, and federal money will only go so far. America's nearly \$500 billion annual tourist industry would be expected to help fuel the revenue growth that will fund local economic resurgence.

But not this year.

On the heels of the Donald Trump election, Las Vegas mass shooting, Muslim travel bans, an alt-right resurgence and a palpable negative shift in how America is perceived globally, nations are issuing U.S. travel warnings and fanning fears of an America that no longer welcomes foreigners or succors its own citizens.

Take Mexicans, for example. President Trump actively denigrates them, so they increasingly have decided to stay home this year. That means the U.S. will lose over a billion tourist dollars from Mexico. Estimates for 2018 are even worse. Travel professionals see the dramatic drop in U.S. tourism as an international reaction to America's new politics. They call it the "Trump Slump."

Travel luminary Arthur Frommer says the "slump" will now cost the U.S. billions in lost revenue and result in disappearing jobs for "hundreds of thousands of workers in hotels, restaurants, transportation, stores, tour operations, travel agencies, and the like."

All this during a hotelier's presidency.

Earlier this year, Nigeria advised its citizens against non-essential travel to the U.S. following the Trump travel ban. The United Kingdom scares its subjects by leading off its official foreign travel advice page with a warning that "terrorists are very likely to carry out attacks in the USA." France, New Zealand, Australia, Ireland and Germany all warn their citizens about American gun violence and give the impression that tourists are particularly vulnerable. The Australian government tells travelers to the U.S. that "mass shootings continue to occur in public places," while Germany makes it clear that "in the U.S. it is comparatively easy to get possession of weapons."

Negative news and official government fear-mongering add to foreign visitors' anxieties, already heightened by viewing endless video loops on national broadcasts of American police brutality, neo-Nazi marches, race riots and mass shootings. Facebook and Twitter amplify these messages and promote the dramatic images even without Russian ad targeting.

Mass shootings in Orlando or Las Vegas all feed the firmly established narrative of America as a wild and dangerous society where an innocent Australian bride can be shot by police or

where club- and concertgoers get shot while dancing. If reality were not harsh enough, American cultural products from music to movies reinforce foreign perceptions of a callously violent and racially riven American society.

America as a shining city upon a hill begins to look tarnished from both afar and from inches away on a mobile screen. A romanticized Woodstock once captured the imagination of the world's youth, now it's a "bump stock" that represents a cold, contemporary America.

Pervasive violence is not the only thing turning off foreign travelers. The rise of the dollar, naturally, makes tourism to the USA more expensive and less accessible. It also drives down exports in general, making American products such as Napa Valley wines even pricier and harder to sell overseas.

Puerto Rico is mostly immune to shifts in dollar fluctuations and the feckless nature of foreign tourists since its currency is the dollar and Americans are 90 percent of the tourist business. A strong dollar, however, also means that Americans can go elsewhere cheaper, perhaps skipping a devastated Puerto Rico altogether. The hard-hit and debt-burdened island is a long way from anything resembling recovery. Hurricane-damaged infrastructure and industry will keep tourists away.

San Francisco is my hometown and tourism is a key industry here. Technology is increasingly the driving economic force, but tourism brings my city around \$10 billion annually. In nearby Sonoma County, the fires still rage. October harvest season is prime-time for visitors, but the burnt down hotels and fire-damaged vineyards mean that Sonoma's annual \$2 billion in tourism revenues are now going up in smoke. The human cost is immeasurable.

While writing this column, a light dusting of ash has landed on my laptop, as have emails and social media posts from friends directly affected by the fires. When tragedy strikes, the human impulse should be to help if possible, ignoring difference and danger. America's friends abroad need to overlook this country's domestic problems and recognize they, too, can help. Once the fires are out, flood water damage is controlled, power lines up, and the memory of the Route 91 Harvest mass murder recedes, then please come back, visit, and help restore the country you once deeply loved.

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## Was the fall of Rome a biological phenomenon?

**B**ill Gates is worried. The tech entrepreneur and philanthropist has been using his megaphone to warn us of the catastrophic risk posed by infectious diseases. In the Western world, where mortality from lethal germs has mostly receded into the background, the burden of infectious disease can seem like someone else's problem. But the struggle between humanity and infectious disease is never someone else's problem—certainly not in our globally interconnected society. And while modern medicine has the upper hand on many old microbial enemies, we should beware the sinister ability of pathogen evolution to thwart our cleverest weapons.

Gates is right. The risk of a "big one," a biological event that threatens to break down our public health infrastructure and rattle the foundations of the global order, is out there, lurking. On his side, Gates has legions of epidemiologists whose dire assessments can seem abstract. Human history offers us a deeper and more tangible sense of the unpredictable role that invisible biological enemies have played in the story of our species.

Take the example of Rome. By any estimate, the Romans built one of history's most extraordinary civilizations. For hundreds of years, the Roman Empire controlled territory stretching from the frostbit frontiers of northern Britain to the scorching edges of the Sahara. The capacity to integrate conquered societies into the empire was a source of strength and staying power. Roman civilization was a lunge toward modernity, with greater social complexity and economic prosperity than ever seen before. And the fall of the Roman Empire represented the single greatest step backward in the long but uneven march of human civilization.

What accounts for this epochal setback? There has never been a shortage of answers: Loss of virtue (an old favorite, but long out of fashion), class conflict, fiscal unsustainability, the technological development of "barbarian" civilizations, or (alas) some failure of immigration policy. Some 200 answers have been compassed, and the vast majority of them are human—all too human.

Historians inevitably make the best use of the evidence at

their disposal, and in the last few years, that evidence has been revolutionized. What we are learning, principally from pathogen genomics, is that the fall of the Roman Empire may have been a biological phenomenon.

The most devastating enemy the Romans ever faced was *Yersinia pestis*, the bacterium that causes bubonic plague and that has been the agent of three historic pandemics, including the medieval Black Death. The first pandemic interrupted a remarkable renaissance of Roman power under the energetic leadership of the emperor Justinian. In the course of three years, this disease snaked its way across the empire and carried off perhaps 30 million souls. The career of the disease in the capital is vividly described by contemporaries, who believed they were witnessing the apocalyptic "wine-press of God's wrath," in the form of the huge military towers filled with piles of purulent corpses. The Roman renaissance was stopped dead in its tracks; state failure and economic stagnation ensued, from which the Romans never recovered.

Recently the actual DNA of *Yersinia pestis* has been recovered from multiple victims of the Roman pandemic. And the lessons are profound.

In the first place, the biological agent of the great plague was a relatively young species. *Y. pestis* was not a germ that had existed for hundreds of thousands of years. To use our contemporary terminology, when it struck the Roman Empire it was an "emerging infectious disease." As old germs evolve new molecular tools, or entirely new germs arrive on the scene, the results can be tremendously destabilizing—a reminder to modern societies that we must do more than keep track of known threats.

Second, the Roman pandemic was no parochial affair. The closest known relatives of the strain that caused the Roman outbreak have been found in western China. This fact is consistent with the detail provided by ancient sources that the pandemic erupted on the coast of Egypt, at an entrepot of the bustling Red Sea trade. The deadly package was ferried into the empire across the vast Indian Ocean trade network that brought silk and spices to Roman shores. The plague was, then, an unintended side effect of incipient globalization.

And finally, it was an event of mind-boggling ecological com-

**By KYLE HARPER**

Los Angeles Times



*Kyle Harper is senior vice president and provost and professor of Classics and Letters at the University of Oklahoma, and the author of the new book The Fate of Rome: Climate, Disease, and the End of an Empire. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*

plexity. Plague is a disease of rodents, and the Roman pandemic event involved at least five different species: the bacterium, the rodents of central Asia that were the reservoir host, the Black rats that carried the germ to the west, the fleas whose bite transmits the disease between hosts, and the human victims. The plague was, in short, a conspiracy of human civilization and nature, in a way that the Romans could not have foreseen or imagined.

Rome was far from the only advanced society shaken to its core by the explosive force of infectious diseases. The medieval Black Death sent some leading-edge polities (like the communities of Italy) backward, while opening the space for the ascent of others, such as England. The lethal role of pathogen exchange in the European conquest of the New World is relatively famous, if still imperfectly understood. The lightning dispersal of cholera around the globe in the 1810s, and the 1918 Spanish flu, caused by H1N1 influenza virus, are further examples of the devastation that germs can unleash when human societies offer them the right conditions.

We are not as helpless in the face of infectious disease as past societies. We have germ theory and public health and antibiotic pharmaceuticals at our disposal. But the patterns of history can deepen our sense of the laws that govern civilization. Often, those laws are nature's laws, not humanity's. Evolution is the great wild card, and its awesome power can be checked but never fully conquered.

The threat of pandemic disease deserves to rank among our most rational fears. Perhaps the experience of bygone civilizations can make that warning a little less abstract.

## It's not about flirting or sexy clothing

I was going to write a dispute of Mayim Bialik's problematic sexual harassment op-ed, but tens of thousands of women and men beat me to it with two simple, terrible words: Me too.

The one-two gut punch populated social media feeds for most of Sunday, inspired by a viral post (credited originally to a tweet from actress Alyssa Milano) that reads: "If all the women and men who have been sexually harassed, assaulted or abused wrote 'me too' as a status, we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem. #metoo"

Close to 40,000 people—mostly, but not exclusively, women—had replied to Milano's tweet by Monday morning.

On Instagram, Twitter and Facebook the words "me too" dominated timelines—sometimes by themselves, sometimes accompanied by an example (or examples)—serving as a harrowing reminder that sexual harassment and assault are deeply ingrained, alarmingly common experiences that poison our culture in ways we're only beginning to recognize.

And as one person tweeted, "#MeToo is just tip of the iceberg. There are millions without any computer, internet access who have worse experiences of daily abuse."

Actress and neuroscientist Bialik probably didn't mean to imply otherwise with the piece she wrote for The New York Times, "Being a feminist in Harvey Weinstein's world."

Unfortunately, she framed the horrific, ever-increasing allegations against Weinstein as something that only happens to con-

ventionally pretty girls.

"Those of us in Hollywood who don't represent an impossible standard of beauty have the 'luxury' of being overlooked and, in many cases, ignored by men in power unless we can make them money," she wrote.

She wrote about dressing modestly and refusing to flirt with men "as a policy."

"If you are beautiful and sexy, terrific," she wrote. "But having others celebrate your physical beauty is not the way to lead a meaningful life."

"And if—like me—you're not a perfect 10, know that there are people out there who will find you stunning, irresistible and worthy of attention, respect and love. The best part is you don't have to go to a hotel room or a casting couch to find them."

But Weinstein's alleged victims weren't going to him for attention, respect and love. They were going to him for jobs in their chosen field—Bialik's chosen field.

Weinstein stands accused of multiple rapes and a growing list of skeezy, sexually charged power grabs. There's zero evidence his victims flirted with him. It could not matter less what they were wearing. It never does.

The #MeToo campaign is all the proof we need. People are sharing stories of being attacked as children, harassed in uniform, assaulted by coaches. A friend wrote about being raped by the owner of a restaurant where she waitressed during her second

posts—and I've tried to read all that Mark Zuckerberg's algorithms have shown me—have prompted self-reflection and wholesale unearthing of past harassment my wife has endured. Hearing her stories made me angry, as does imagining such things happening to my sister or my nieces. And yet, that too underlines a problem. Our clarity on this shouldn't hinge on

**By HEIDI STEVENS**

Chicago Tribune



*Heidi Stevens is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Readers may email her at [hstevens@chicagotribune.com](mailto:hstevens@chicagotribune.com).*

year of seminary.

We can know people for decades and not really know their stories. We can know their stories and not really know their struggles. The #MeToo campaign has proved that, as well.

Bialik—and all of us—would do well to remember that.

Sexual harassment and assault are epidemics. We should try to get "a sense of the magnitude," as the viral post urged. We should also get to work on solving them. That won't happen as long as we're framing them as the result of flirting and, whoops, the wrong clothes.

Weinstein's accusers, and now their #MeToo allies, have launched an important, long-overdue discussion. Let's honor that courage by refusing to engage in victim-blaming, which has no place in an intelligent, good-faith discussion.

Also, to no one's surprise at this point: me too.

whether it's happened close to home.

One more hashtag, #YesIAm: I am trying to learn from the very real things that aren't always obvious to me. I am trying to be mindful. I am trying to do better and demand better from others.

And to all the women behind all the #MeToo posts: I see you. I hear you. I believe you.

## #METOO

From Page 10

calcified.

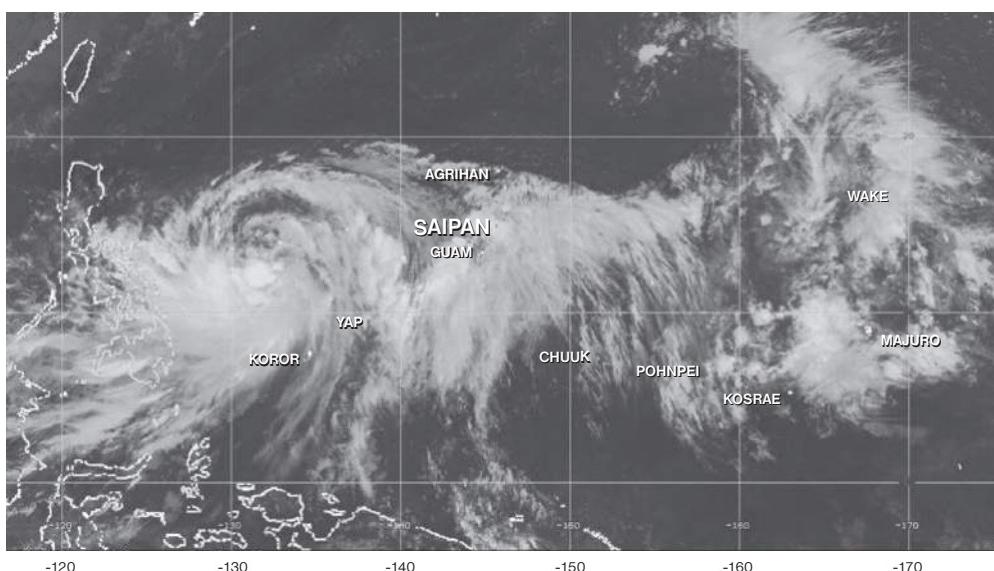
It's been an interesting week in my house. These #MeToo

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.			
▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



## PICTURE TIME: 9:59 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show widespread rain and heavy showers across the region. Satellite images show a circulation about 75 miles west of Saipan near 15N 144.5E. A broad monsoon trough sits just north of the CNMI putting the Marianas within a large area of moist southwest flow. This will prolong showers and thunderstorms across the islands for much of today, with only a small decrease tonight. Prolonged heavy rain will saturate the soils and will lead to an increased risk of mudslides in areas with steep terrain. Models are quite aggressive in developing this next circulation to the east of the Marianas, perhaps too fast. Regardless, it will need to be closely monitored the next several days.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA	▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy		85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms		86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms		85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms		88° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms		86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms		86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms		86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy		63° / 55°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy		68° / 48°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny		86° / 73°
Honolulu	Windy		84° / 75°
London	Cloudy		64° / 54°
Los Angeles	Cloudy		77° / 63°
Manila	Partly Cloudy		88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy		61° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms		84° / 79°
New York	Mostly Cloudy		74° / 57°
Osaka	Rain		70° / 61°
Paris	Partly Cloudy		70° / 54°
Busan	Sunny		68° / 57°
Rome	Mostly Sunny		73° / 54°
Salem	Sunny		78° / 52°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy		60° / 52°
Seoul	Sunny		70° / 46°
Tokyo	Rain		63° / 59°
Washington, DC	Sunny		73° / 54°



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
1:20 AM	LOW TIDE	0.28
7:17 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.84
1:29 PM	LOW TIDE	0.50
7:14 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.94

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Sunday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Monday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:27 am	5:42 pm	-
Friday	6:17 am	6:23 pm	-
Saturday	7:07 am	7:04 pm	-
Sunday	7:57 am	7:47 pm	-
Monday	8:47 am	8:30 pm	-

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 4, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b>			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b>			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b>				<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b>			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>				<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b>				<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4	TW3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	Daily	LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b>				<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b>			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)</b>				<b>HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN</b>			
JD396	7:0						

# Business

## China's Xi calls for more technology development

**BEIJING** (AP)—President Xi Jinping called Wednesday for the ruling Communist Party to lead development of Chinese technology industries, an area fraught with trade tensions and complaints that Beijing encourages theft of foreign know-how.

In a speech at the opening of a party congress, Xi called for making a “country of innovators” and creating competitors in aerospace, cyberspace, clean energy and other areas. Xi promised to promote cooperation among universities, government research institutes, state companies and small enterprises.

Tensions with Washington and Europe over technology policy is rising as Chinese companies emerge as global competitors in cellphones, solar power and other fields amid complaints that Beijing hampers access to its own markets.

Intelligence analysts say the government encourages intel-

lectual property theft.

U.S. President Donald Trump ordered an investigation in August into whether China improperly requires foreign companies to hand over technology as a condition of market access.

“We will strengthen basic research in applied sciences, launch major national science and technology projects and prioritize innovation in key technologies,” said Xi in a nationally televised speech.

Chinese companies are spending billions of dollars a year on developing their own technology in computers, telecoms and other fields. But the country also is regarded as a global center for industrial spying and intelligence experts say the scale is growing as Beijing tries to create competitors in fields from robotics to energy to pharmaceuticals.

Foreign business groups also have expressed concern about development plans they say would limit access



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech at the opening ceremony of the 19th Party Congress held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017. AP

to emerging industries by dictating in advance leading competitors will be Chinese-owned.

Global companies are setting up research and development facilities in China but business groups say they are reluctant to transfer their most advanced technologies or conduct high-level research in this country for fear it will be stolen.

Trump’s predecessor, Barack Obama, announced an agreement with Xi in 2015

to refrain from using government spy agencies to steal intellectual property for commercial use.

It is unclear how broadly that prohibition might apply, because intelligence experts say Beijing has since the 1970s encouraged a wide range of sources including companies, scientists and students abroad to acquire technology.

Intelligence analysts say Beijing offers rewards of cash, tax breaks, research grants or

university tenure. They say the government operates a network of research centers and business parks to transform stolen know-how into commercial products.

Chinese companies are stepping up acquisitions of foreign technology producers. That has prompted concern that the United States and European countries might be allowing the loss of important competitive assets.

A Chinese buyer’s acquisi-

### A short-term health deal by senators—but Trump a question

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Republican and Democratic senators joined in announcing a plan Tuesday aimed at stabilizing America’s health insurance markets in the wake of President Donald Trump’s order to terminate “Obamacare” subsidies. The president, at first, spoke approvingly of the deal, but as conservatives rebelled, the White House insisted Trump actually opposed the plan as a bailout of insurance companies.

The agreement followed weeks of negotiations between Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Democratic Sen. Patty Murray of Washington that sought to address health insurance markets that have been in limbo following GOP failures to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. The talks took on added urgency when Trump announced last week that he would end monthly “cost sharing reduction” payments the government makes to help insurance companies reduce costs for lower-income people.

Without that money, premiums for some people buying individual health plans would spike, and some insurers would flee the markets, industry officials warn.

The Alexander-Murray deal would continue the insurer payments for two years, while establishing new flexibility for states under former President Barack Obama’s law.

“This would allow the Senate to continue its debate about the long term of health care, but over the next two years I think Americans won’t have

to worry about the possibility of being able to buy insurance in counties where they live,” Alexander said in announcing the deal after a closed-door lunch where he presented it to GOP senators.

“This agreement avoids chaos. I don’t know a Republican or Democrat who benefits from chaos,” he said.

Alexander said the president had encouraged his efforts in phone calls over the past two weeks. And at the White House, Trump responded positively, expressing optimism that Republicans would ultimately succeed in repealing Obamacare, but until then,

“For a period of one year, two years, we will have a very good solution.”

“It is a short-term solution so that we don’t have this very

tion of German robotics giant Kuka prompted appeals in Europe for laws requiring a review of such technology purchases.

The president of the European Union’s governing body announced plans last month for an investment-review process, a step seen as a response to complaints that Chinese companies were acquiring European technology while foreign companies are barred from purchasing most assets in China.

In September, Trump blocked the acquisition of a semiconductor manufacturer, Lattice Semiconductor, by a Chinese government-financed buyer on national security grounds. A White House statement cited the importance of maintaining “semiconductor supply chain integrity” and the potential transfer of technology to a foreign buyer.

Foreign business groups have complained that Beijing is improperly shielding Chinese technology suppliers from competition. That includes rules that limit Chinese banks’ use of foreign security technology.

dangerous little period, including a dangerous period for insurance companies, by the way,” he said during a Rose Garden press conference.

Hours later, at an appearance in front of a conservative Washington think tank, Trump said he was pleased Democrats had “finally responded to my call for them to take responsibility for their Obamacare disaster” and were working “with Republicans to provide much-needed relief to the American people.”

But, he added, “While I commend the bipartisan work done by Senators Alexander and Murray—and I do commend it—I continue to believe Congress must find a solution to the Obamacare mess instead of providing bailouts to insurance companies.”

### Negotiators give up hope of rewriting NAFTA this year

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Talks to rewrite the North American Free Trade Agreement have stalled over tough American demands, dashed hopes that a deal can be reached this year.

A fourth round of negotiations between the U.S., Mexico and Canada ended in mutual exasperation Tuesday. Talks will continue next month in Mexico City and will spill over into next year.

The negotiators had originally hoped to reach an agreement this year—before Mexico’s presidential election and U.S. midterms turn up the political pressure in 2018.

President Donald Trump, who called NAFTA a job-killing “disaster” on the campaign trail, has threatened to withdraw from the 23-year-old pact if he can’t get what he wants.

Canada and Mexico are balking at America’s demand that a revamped deal do something to reduce America’s trade deficits.

“We have seen no indication that our partners are willing to make any changes that

will result in a rebalancing and a reduction in these huge trade deficits,” U.S. Trade Rep. Robert Lighthizer said.

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland countered that America’s “unconventional” proposals would “turn back the clock” and warned against a “winner-take-all mindset.”

NAFTA ripped down most trade barriers between the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Trade surged within the NAFTA bloc, benefiting American farmers who export corn and other products.

But many U.S. manufacturers moved production south of the border to take advantage of Mexico’s low labor costs, then shipped goods back to the United States. The influx of imports swelled America’s trade deficit with Mexico, which came to \$62 billion last year. (The United States logged an \$8 billion trade surplus with Canada in 2016.)

To cut the trade deficit with Mexico, the United States is demanding that more auto production be made in America before qualifying for NAFTA benefits.



#### LEADING INDICATORS

**DOW**  
22,997.44  
+40.48  
0.18%

**S&P**  
2,559.36  
+1.72  
0.07%

**NASDAQ**  
6,623.66  
-0.35  
-0.01%

In U.S. dollar terms

#### EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	<b>1.2747</b>	Hong Kong Dollar	<b>7.8083</b>	Russian Ruble	<b>57.2161</b>
British Pound	<b>0.7585</b>	Indian Rupee	<b>65.1795</b>	Singapore Dollar	<b>1.3556</b>
Canadian Dollar	<b>1.2508</b>	Japanese Yen	<b>112.2970</b>	South Korean Won	<b>1104.15</b>
Chinese Yuan	<b>6.4917</b>	Malaysian Ringgit	<b>4.1727</b>	Swiss Franc	<b>0.9786</b>
Euro	<b>0.8498</b>	New Zealand Dollar	<b>1.3973</b>	Taiwan Dollar	<b>29.6068</b>
		Philippine Peso	<b>50.3696</b>	Thailand Baht	<b>33.0515</b>



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# Nation

## Judge halts newest Trump travel ban, saying it has same woes

HONOLULU (AP)—A federal judge in Hawaii blocked most of President Donald Trump's latest travel ban Tuesday, just hours before it was set to take effect, saying the revised order "suffers from precisely the same maladies as its predecessor."

It was the third set of travel restrictions issued by the president to be thwarted, in whole or in part, by the courts.

U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson issued the ruling after the ban on a set of mostly Muslim countries was challenged by the state of Hawaii, which warned that the restrictions would separate families and undermine the recruiting of diverse college students.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders called the ruling "dangerously flawed" and said it "undercuts the president's efforts to keep the American people safe." The Justice Department said it will quickly appeal.

At issue was a ban, announced in September and set to go into effect early Wednesday, on travelers from Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria and Yemen, along with some Venezuelan government officials and their families.

The Trump administration said the ban was based on an assessment of each country's security situation and willingness to share information with the U.S.

Watson, appointed to the bench by President Barack

### Puerto Rico youth stranded with school still out from storm

**HATILLO, Puerto Rico** (AP)—Alany Arroyo and her little brothers have been cooped up in a school for weeks, but they aren't in class. They've been living in a campus-turned-shelter in western Puerto Rico since Hurricane Maria flooded their home and destroyed their belongings, trying to pass the time while their family waits for help to replace the apartment it lost in the storm.

Fifteen-year-old Arroyo reads or helps her mother clean the classroom where they sleep. The boys kick around a soccer ball and run through the hallways. They are bored and increasingly frustrated, a combination widely felt by young people across Puerto Rico as the island remains stuck in place nearly a month after the hurricane.

Most schools remain closed, leaving kids to pass the time playing on toppled trees or using precious phone battery on video games,

waiting for life to return to normal as the adults around them struggle to put their own lives back together.

"The days are long," Alany said as she washed what was left of the family's clothes in a plastic garbage pail. "I miss studying."

It's not any easier on her mother, Yahaira Lugo, who has started to despair about how to keep her four children occupied. "What do I do with them all day?" she said. "There's nothing. No TV. No internet. Our books are gone and there's no place to go."

Kids will be kids and many seem to be making the most of what for some at least feels like an extended vacation. But 15-year-old Andy Gualdado says the novelty has worn off and he misses friends he used to talk to every day. "Now, I'd like to go to school," he said as he took a break from riding his bike past downed power lines and tree limbs in San Juan.

The storm swept across the island Sept. 20, causing at least 48 deaths, according to the official tally. It caused widespread flooding and knocked out the entire power grid for the island of 3.4 million people.

All 1,113 public schools remain closed, though 167 have served as community centers for children and elderly people to spend part of each day and get breakfast and lunch. An additional 99 schools are being used as shelters for about 5,000 people sleeping in classrooms like the Arroyo family.

As authorities try to figure out how to re-open the schools, they must confront the fact that about 70 have been too damaged by the storm to reopen, some with foundations undermined by landslides, and many have no regular water service. Few, if any, have power.

Teachers were supposed to report back to their assigned schools Monday to prepare for

a resumption of classes next week, but Education Secretary Julia Keleher now concedes that was too ambitious. The start date has been pushed to no sooner than Oct. 30.

It's not just the elementary and secondary schools. Universities and trade schools are also closed or on limited schedules, forcing young people to put their lives on hold or move to the U.S. mainland to pursue their dreams.

Luis Sierra, a 19-year-old studying to be a chef, spent a recent afternoon, shirtless in the blazing afternoon sun, keeping an eye on his family's stuff at another school-turned-shelter in Toa Baja, west of San Juan. The school where he studies says it won't resume until August. "I've lost this year," he said.

Some of the public schools in better shape are being used as community centers, where students can come to play and eat a hot meal cooked by the school cafeteria staff.



In this June 30, 2017, file photo, critics of President Donald Trump's travel ban hold signs during a news conference in Honolulu.

new ban, like its predecessor, fails to show that nationality alone makes a person a greater security risk to the U.S.

"The categorical restrictions on entire populations of men, women and children, based upon nationality, are a poor fit for the issues regarding the sharing of 'public-safety and terrorism-related information' that the president identifies," Watson wrote.

He said the ban is inconsistent in the way some countries are included or left out. For example, Iraq failed to meet the security benchmark but was omitted from the ban. Somalia met the information-sharing benchmark but was included.

"Judge Watson's ruling makes clear that we are a nation of laws, no matter what this administration may try to do," Hawaii's U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz said in a statement. "There is a place here for peaceful immigrants from every corner of the world: Spain, Syria, Sudan, or Singapore. There is no place here for discrimination or xenophobia."

Watson found fault with what sorts of visitors are barred. For instance, all tourists and business travelers from Libya are excluded from the U.S., but student visitors were allowed.

### Californians head back home to altered lives, communities

**PETALUMA, Calif.** (AP)—Some have lost loved ones. Many have survived near-death experiences. Others have lost their homes and a lifetime of possessions.

A week after fleeing raging wildfires, tens of thousands of emotionally ravaged Californians have drifted back home to find their lives and their communities dramatically altered.

At a Red Cross shelter in Petaluma on Tuesday, 69-year-old Sue Wortman recalled the words that raced through her mind when she fled the flames near her home in Sonoma.

"We're all going up in smoke," she thought at the time. Since then, she's been walking around in a daze.

Firefighters gained more control Tuesday of the massive wine country wildfires, even as other blazes erupted in mountains near Los Angeles and Santa Cruz.

Meanwhile, officials and trauma experts worried about the emotional toll taken by the grueling week of blazes.

Wortman has been living in her RV outside the Petaluma shelter, while hundreds

of other evacuees sought refuge in tents and trailers and on cots inside the fairground facility. She has sought comfort among friends and with her dogs but knows that feeling won't last.

"I think it's really going to hit when we go home and see the destruction," she said.

Highlighting the concerns of mental health professionals, the California Psychological Association has emailed an urgent request calling for volunteers to help wildfire evacuees cope with the trauma they have faced and its aftermath.

"There is tremendous acute and long term impact and we are needed right now to help," Dr. Chip Shreiber, the association's disaster resource coordinator, said in the email sent Monday to a distribution list of 13,000 licensed psychologists across California. "Please get the word out."

The fires that swept through parts of seven counties were the deadliest and most destructive series of blazes in California history. At least 41 people were killed and 6,000 homes destroyed.

# Asia

## Amnesty: Myanmar army killed at least hundreds of Rohingya

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Myanmar security forces killed hundreds of men, women and children during a systematic campaign to expel Rohingya Muslims, Amnesty International said in a new report Wednesday that calls for an arms embargo on the country and criminal prosecution of the perpetrators.

More than 580,000 refugees have arrived in Bangladesh since Aug. 25, when Myanmar security forces began a scorched-earth campaign against Rohingya villages. Myanmar's government has said it was responding to attacks by Muslim insurgents, but the United Nations and others have said the response was disproportionate.

The continuing exodus of Rohingya Muslims has become a major humanitarian crisis and sparked international condemnation of Buddhist-majority Myanmar, which still denies atrocities are taking place.

Based on interviews with more than 120 fleeing Rohingya, Amnesty International said at least hundreds of people were killed by security forces who surrounded villages, shot fleeing inhabitants and then set buildings alight, burning to death the elderly, sick and disabled who were unable to flee.

In some villages, women and girls were raped or subjected to other sexual violence, according to the report.

The witnesses repeatedly described an insignia on their attackers' uniforms that matched one worn by troops from Myanmar's Western Command, Amnesty International said.



**AP** Newly arrived Rohingya Muslims, who crossed over from Myanmar into Bangladesh, carry their sick children and rest at Palong Khal, Bangladesh, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017.

When shown various insignia used by Myanmar's army, witnesses consistently picked out the Western Command patch, it said.

The 33rd Light Infantry Division and border police, who wear a distinctive blue camouflage uniform, were also frequently involved in attacks on villages, along with Buddhist vigilante mobs, witnesses said.

Matthew Wells, an Amnesty crisis researcher who spent several weeks at the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, said the rights group plans to issue another report in the coming months examining individual criminal responsibility, including specific commanders and others that

may be involved in abuses.

He said hundreds of Rohingya have been treated for gunshot wounds and doctors say that the injuries are consistent with people being shot from behind as they fled.

There were credible indications that a total of sev-

eral hundred people had been killed in just five villages that were the focus of Amnesty's reporting. Wells said that given that dozens of villages across northern Rakhine State have been targeted in a similar fashion, the death toll could be much higher.

He said satellite imagery, corroborated by witness accounts, show that Rohingya homes and mosques have been burned entirely in villages, while non-Rohingya areas just one or two hundred yards (meters) away were untouched.

"It speaks to how organized,

## Files show new details of US support for Indonesia bloodbath

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** (AP)—Declassified files have revealed new details of U.S. government knowledge and support of an Indonesian army extermination campaign that killed several hundred thousand civilians during anti-communist hysteria in the

mid-1960s.

The thousands of files from the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta covering 1963-66 were made public Tuesday after a declassification review that began under the Obama administration. The Associated Press reviewed key documents in the

collection in advance of their release.

The files fill out the picture of a devastating reign of terror by the Indonesian army and Muslim groups that has been sketched by historians and in a U.S. State Department volume that was declassified in 2001 despite a last-minute CIA effort to block its distribution.

In 1965, Indonesia had the world's third-largest communist party after China and the Soviet Union, with several million members, and the country's president, the charismatic Sukarno, was vociferously socialist and anti-American.

U.S. officials despaired of Indonesia's apparently unstoppable drift into the communist fold and were ecstatic when conservative generals imposed martial law in Jakarta, seized state radio and set out to annihilate the country's communist party on the pretext that it had tried to overthrow the government. Within months, the army would prevail in its power struggle with Sukarno, shifting Indonesia's political orientation to the U.S. and opening its huge market to American companies.

The newly released files

how seemingly well-planned this scorched-earth campaign has been by the Myanmar military and how determined the effort has been to drive the Rohingya population out of the country," Wells said.

Among almost two dozen recommendations, the human rights group called for the U.N. Security Council to impose a comprehensive arms embargo on Myanmar and financial sanctions against senior officials responsible for violations that Amnesty says meet the criteria for crimes against humanity.

It said the council should explore options for bringing the perpetrators to justice under international law if Myanmar authorities do not act swiftly.

"It is time for the international community to move beyond public outcry and take action to end the campaign of violence that has driven more than half the Rohingya population out of Myanmar," Amnesty said.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Diplomats from Washington, Seoul, Tokyo talk N. Korea threat

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—Diplomats from the United States, South Korea and Japan are meeting in Seoul to discuss policy responses to North Korea's accelerating efforts to expand its nuclear weapons program. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan and Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama vowed to find more ways to apply pressure on Pyongyang after a meeting in Tokyo before they flew to Seoul for talks with South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Lim Sung-nam on Wednesday. The talks come as the United States and South Korea hold joint naval drills to train for potential North Kore-

an provocations. North Korea has recently tested purported thermonuclear weapons and long-range missiles and flew two midrange missiles over Japan between threats to fire the same weapons toward Guam, a Pacific U.S. territory and military hub.

#### Philippines says militant's widow recruited foreign fighters

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Philippine authorities have arrested the widow of the leader of a militant band sympathetic to the Islamic State group and say she recruited foreign fighters to the country and spread extremist propaganda. Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II presented a burqa-clad Karen Aizha Hamidon at a news conference Wednesday.

She was arrested on Oct 11 and was said to have been married to Mohammad Jaafar Maguid of the violent Islamic group Ansar Khalifa Philippines who was killed in January in a clash with police in southern Sarangani province. The National Bureau of Investigation says Hamidon last year recruited several Indians to join radical groups in the southern Philippines. She has been allegedly inviting through social media Muslim sympathizers to join IS-linked militants who have laid siege on southern Marawi city.

#### Japanese military helicopter loses contact off central Japan

**TOKYO** (AP)—A Japanese military helicopter carrying four crewmembers lost radar contact Tuesday while on a

nighttime search and rescue flight training mission in central Japan and is feared to have crashed. The UH-60J disappeared from radar while flying over the Pacific Ocean about 30 kilometers (18 miles) south of Hamamatsu, a coastal city in central Japan, soon after taking off from a nearby base, officials said. Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said rescuers spotted objects that appeared to be parts of the helicopter floating in the water, suggesting a crash. The objects included what appeared to be a cabin door with the inscription "Air Self-Defense Force," a tail rotor, a fuel tank, a pair of wheels and a stretcher, the ministry said in a statement. Four military vessels and a coast guard ship were searching for the missing crewmembers late Tuesday.

underline the U.S. Embassy's and State Department's early, detailed and ongoing knowledge of the killings and eagerness to avoid doing anything that would hinder the Indonesian army. Historians had already established that the U.S. provided lists of senior communist party officials, radio equipment and money as part of active support for the army.

The documents also show that U.S. officials had credible information that contradicted the Indonesian army's lurid story that the kidnapping and killing of seven generals in an abortive coup by junior officers on Sept. 30, 1965, which paved the way for the bloodbath, was ordered by the Indonesian communist party and Beijing.

The documents specifically mention mass killings ordered by Suharto, a general who within months would seize total power and rule Indonesia for more than three decades, and the pivotal role in carrying out the massacres by groups that today remain Indonesia's biggest mainstream Muslim organizations: Nahdlatul Ulama, its youth wing Ansor and Muhammadiyah.

# World

## Catalans protest seditious case, court declares vote illegal

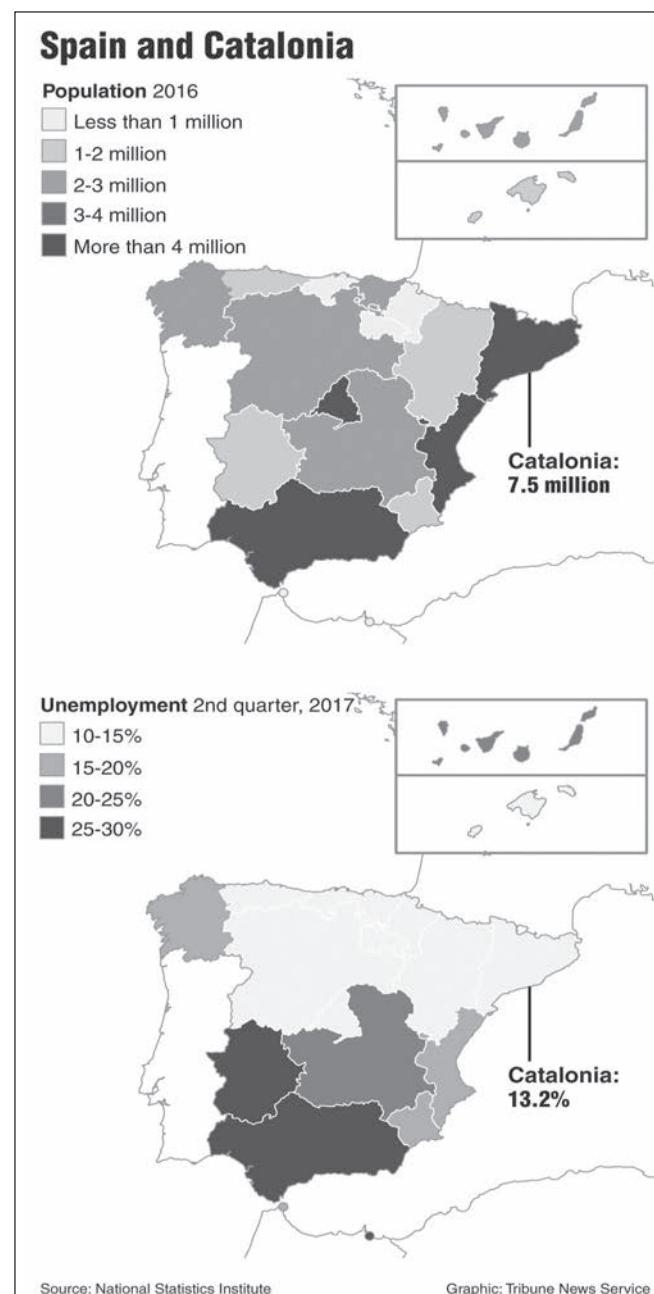
**BARCELONA, Spain** (AP)—Spain's top court ruled Tuesday that an independence referendum in Catalonia was unconstitutional, adding weight to government efforts to block the region from breaking away from the rest of the country but not persuading demonstrators demanding the release of two jailed separatist activists.

The Constitutional Court's ruling was not a surprise. The Spanish government had repeatedly insisted the referendum was illegal. Regional leaders defied the Madrid-based central government and held the Oct. 1 vote even after police seized millions of ballots and used force to close polling stations.

Supporters of secession maintain the "Yes" vote won and Catalan officials have a mandate to declare independence. Portraying the central government as repressive, they showed no signs of giving up despite the court ruling that concluded the referendum was invalid.

Thousands of people holding candles and banners flooded a main avenue in Barcelona on Tuesday night to demand the release of the two Catalan activists jailed by Spanish authorities on possible sedition charges a day earlier.

Jordi Sanchez and Jordi Cuixart, the leaders of grassroots organizations Catalan National Assembly and Omnium Cultural, are being investigated for organizing rallies last month that allegedly



hampered a judicial probe of preparations for the secession vote.

"We are facing an executive power in the state that uses the

judiciary branch to block the legislative," Catalan government spokesman Jordi Turull told reporters shortly after the Constitutional Court ruling

was announced.

Spanish Justice Minister Rafael Catala said Sanchez and Cuixart, were jailed because they are suspected of committed crimes by interfering with a judge's orders. Catala rejected the term "political prisoners" to describe the two, saying it could be considered a case of "politicians in prison."

Catalan President Carles Puigdemont made an ambiguous statement about the region's future last week, saying he has the mandate to declare independence but adding that he would not immediately move to implement it in order to allow time for talks with the

central government.

Spain has said that no dialogue can take place with independence on the table because a reform of the country's Constitution with an ample majority in the national parliament is the only legal way to achieve secession.

On Monday, a Madrid judge provisionally jailed Sanchez and Cuixart, leaders of different grassroots groups promoting independence for Catalonia. The judge ruled they were behind huge demonstrations Sept. 20-21 in Barcelona that got in the way of a police operation designed to prevent the referendum.

Participants in the Tuesday

protest chanted, "Political prisoners, freedom."

Meanwhile, Agusti Alcobeiro, the man who stands in for Sanchez as head of the Assemblea Nacional Catalana, said peaceful protests would be the local response to what he said was the Spanish government's heavy-handed approach.

"No modern state in the 21st century can survive if it bases its legitimacy on subjugating politically and dominating part of its population with the police and military," Alcobeiro told The Associated Press. "That is suicidal, and somebody should explain it to the Spanish government."

## US-backed forces celebrate fall of IS 'capital,' Raqqa

**BEIRUT (AP)**—U.S.-backed Syrian forces celebrated in the devastated streets of Raqqa on Tuesday after gaining control of the northern city that once was the heart of the Islamic State's self-styled caliphate, dealing a major defeat to the extremist group that has seen its territory shrink ever smaller since summer.

Militants took over the vibrant metropolis on the Euphrates River in 2014, transforming it into the epicenter of their brutal rule, where opponents were beheaded and terror plots hatched.

It took thousands of bombs dropped by the U.S.-led coalition and more than four months of grueling house-to-house battles for the Syrian



Democratic Forces to recapture Raqqa, marking a new chapter in the fight against the group whose once vast territory has been reduced to a handful of towns in Syria and Iraq.

"Liberating Raqqa is a triumph for humanity, especially women," who suffered the most under IS, said Ilham Ahmed, a senior member of the SDF political wing.

"It is a salvation for the will to live an honorable life. It is a defeat to the forces of darkness," said Ahmed, speaking to The Associated Press from Ein Issa, just north of Raqqa.

Fighters from the SDF celebrated by chanting and honking their horns as they spun doughnuts with their Humvees and armored personnel carriers, and hoisting yellow SDF flags around Naim, or Paradise Square.

The infamous square was the site of public beheadings and other killings by the militants. Bodies and severed heads would be displayed there for days, mounted on

## In Somalia, hope fades in desperate search for missing

**MOGADISHU, Somalia** (AP)—Anguished families scoured Somalia's capital Tuesday in search of scores still missing from Saturday's bomb blast that killed more than 300 people in one of the world's deadliest attacks in years.

Sitting outside a hospital mortuary, Hodan Ali quietly looked for her missing brother by showing people his photo on the screen of her mobile phone.

Fifty-year-old taxi driver Abdiqadir Ali was last seen Saturday on his way to a hotel to pick up a client just before the massive explosion on a busy street.

Ali, a mother of four, said she had visited most of Mogadishu's hospitals but neither she nor other family members found any sign of him.

"I am about to give up," she said in a soft voice, tears

running over her veil. "Nothing is more painful than not knowing the whereabouts of your loved ones, whether life or death."

Across Mogadishu, Somalia's flag flew at half-mast, marking three days of national mourning. Mayor Thabit Abdi called for a city-wide march on Wednesday in honor of the victims—and as a show of defiance.

"We must liberate this city which is awash with graves," Abdi said.

The death toll of 302 is expected to rise. Nearly 70 people were missing, based on accounts from relatives, said police Capt. Mohamed Hussein.

"My son has gone missing since the day of the attack. I would be very lucky if I had a portion of his body," Abdulkadir Mohamud said,

breaking down in tears. "I do not have even his flesh. Please bring my son back."

With nearly 400 people wounded, with some burned beyond recognition, international aid arrived to help overwhelmed hospitals.

A United States military plane landed in Mogadishu with medical and humanitarian aid supplies. Dozens of critically injured have been airlifted to Turkey for treatment. A medical team from Djibouti arrived for more evacuations, and neighboring Kenya said it would evacuate 31 people and deliver 11 tons of medical supplies.

Somalia's government has blamed the attack on the al-Shabab extremist group, which has not commented. But analysts said there is little doubt that Africa's deadliest Islamic extremist group

carried out the bombing. "No other group in Somalia has the capacity to put together a bomb of this size, in this nature," said Matt Bryden, a security consultant on the Horn of Africa. Analysts have suggested that al-Shabab, an ally of al-Qaida, may have avoided taking responsibility because it did not want to be blamed for the deaths of so many civilians.

Al-Shabab has waged war in Somalia for more than a decade, often targeting high-profile areas of the capital. Earlier this year, it vowed to step up attacks after both the Trump administration and Somalia's recently elected Somali-American president, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, announced new military efforts against the extremists. Mohamed vowed to wipe them out within two years.

"Immortal martyrs!" chanted the men and women in SDF uniforms, saluting their comrades who died battling for the city. According to the coalition, about 1,100 SDF forces have been killed fighting IS in Raqqa and Deir el-Zour.

"Military operations in Raqqa have ceased and we are now combing the city for sleeper cells and cleaning it from land mines," Brig. Gen. Talal Sillo told the AP earlier in the day.

A formal declaration that Raqqa has fallen would be made soon, once troops finish their clearing operations, Sillo said.

Col. Ryan Dillon, the Baghdad-based spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition, was more cautious, saying only that "more than 90 percent" of Raqqa had been cleared. He estimated about 100 IS militants were still in the city and said he expects the SDF to encounter "pockets of resistance" during the clearing operations.

# Environment



A sculpture of child rests in the fire-ravaged neighborhood of Coffey Park in Santa Rosa, Calif., on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017.

AP

## California's new normal may be more intense heat, fires, droughts and floods

**By STUART LEAVENWORTH**  
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

**A**s portrayed in novels, the California of the future is barely habitable. Brutal storms alternate with crushing droughts. Mudslides and wildfires create waves of climate change refugees.

Fiction? Perhaps less so after the past week.

The wildfires in northern California obliterated neighborhoods; thousands evacuated or made homeless; fire authorities stunned by fast-moving blazes and tinderbox conditions that, as Gov. Jerry Brown said, "we've never seen."

"It is pretty frightening," said T.C. Boyle, author of "A Friend of the Earth," a 2000 novel that depicted a California ravaged by extreme weather and environmental devastation in the year 2025.

"People say I was prescient by what I predicted for 2025," he said in an interview Thursday. "The sad joke is I should have said 2015. It is frightening how quickly we got here."

California knows extreme weather. Throughout its history, it has endured natural disasters, like floods and heat waves. But many scientists say the wildfires of the past week are not completely natural. Park Williams, a Columbia University research scientist, said the fingerprint of climate change "is definitely there." Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at the University of

California, Los Angeles, agreed.

"Increasing temperature plays a significant role in making these fires more explosive, and covering ground more quickly," Swain said.

From April to September across northern California, mean temperatures were the highest in 123 years, according to John Abatzoglou, a University of Idaho geography professor who grew up in California and specializes in wildfires and climate change.

"Climate has enabled fire activity across the West this summer (and now fall)," he said in email. First the wet winter spurred robust vegetative growth. Then the record temperatures dried out that brush faster than in a "normal year," he said.

What is the new normal? For California, it is reflected in the weather patterns of past several years. Six years of drought was followed by record winter snow and rain, followed by record heat from April through September. Santa Rosa hit 110 degrees Sept. 1, a record high for the date. Five weeks later parts of the city caught fire, destroying hundreds of homes and businesses.

Worse extremes can be expected in coming decades. Droughts, heat waves, reduced snowpack, winter storms, and sea-level rise are expected to intensify, say scientists who monitor climate change. How much will involve both natural weather patterns and levels of greenhouse gas emissions that are building in the atmosphere, warming the planet.

Sacramento and the Central Valley face risks on several fronts. The

number of extreme heat days — 104 degrees or higher — is expected to rise 6 to 10 times by end of the century in cities such as Sacramento and Fresno, according to Cal-Adapt.org, a data collaboration involving the California Energy Commission, the University of California, Berkeley, and other partners.

This year, the northern California city of Redding baked under 72 days of 100 degrees or higher, surpassing the previous record of 69 days set a half century earlier.

Studies of past heat waves in California show they can cause hundreds of deaths in a single month. A 2009 state study of the July 2006 heat wave found that as many as 500 Californians may have died that month, and that each 10-degree increase in temperature from day to day led to a 9 percent increase in daily deaths.

Swain, the UCLA scientist, said not every summer will produce record heat, just as every winter will not necessarily be dry. Sacramento's delta breeze will still make a regular summer appearance, just as San Franciscans will bundle up in the June fogs.

"We will still have natural climate variability. Some years will be hotter than we are used to, and some years cooler," he said. "But the hot years will be outside the realm of our previous experience."

Under most climate change projections, the Sierra Nevada will receive less snow, particularly at lower elevations. That will result in wildfires starting earlier in the season and extending longer, a pattern already

documented. It also will heighten the risks for California's mountain communities, such as Lake Tahoe and Mammoth.

Sacramento and the San Joaquin Valley also confront the prospect of stronger winter storms, with more precipitation falling as rain instead of snow, increasing the flood threat. Projections show that Sacramento faces a 10 percent increase in storm size, with the San Joaquin receiving storms 50 percent larger, said Joe Countryman, a retired U.S. Army Corps engineer and flood control specialist.

Countryman said runoff could be moderated by big storms falling on ever-drier watersheds, where the dry ground could absorb much of the rainfall. But bigger storms striking already saturated slopes of the Sierra could create serious flooding,

especially in the San Joaquin Valley, which doesn't have the levee system to handle big flows.

California has enacted the nation's most aggressive laws to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and government and nonprofit groups are collaborating on ways to adapt to the changing climate. One of those is the Resilient by Design challenge, an effort in and around San Francisco to respond to sea-level rise and other expected impacts of climate change.

Yet sea-level rise is one of the most challenging aspects of climate change to forecast. "It is one of these insidious things where uncertainty is not our friend," Swain said.

Until recently, scientists expected the Bay Area and coastal California

to face gradual sea-level rise of 2 to 3 feet by the end of the century. But ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica are melting faster than expected. "It is possible we could see 6, 7 or 8 feet (of sea-level rise) by 2100," Swain said.

With that kind of sea rise, Bay Area airports would be underwater, unless fortified by expensive sea walls. Freeways, residential neighborhoods and some Silicon Valley campuses would be threatened. Saltwater would intrude deeper into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley, rendering current water supplies undrinkable for more than 20 million Californians.

Swain and other scientists said it is already too late to prevent impacts of climate change, given the level of greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere. But there is still opportunity to avoid the most serious consequences. That would involve retooling of the international carbon economy beyond what is envisioned in the Paris Agreement, which President Donald Trump has threatened to abandon.

This year's hurricanes, flooding and wildfires should serve as a warning, said former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, who leads the Panetta Institute at the University of California, Monterey Bay.

Panetta said he could smell the smoke from the North Bay fires, despite being more than 150 miles south of Santa Rosa. Because of the drought and other impacts of climate change, he said, "It's a new normal ... what we are witnessing today."

# Life & Style

## Me Too: Alyssa Milano elevates Harvey Weinstein conversation

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Alyssa Milano was in bed with her two young children when a friend of a friend on Facebook suggested something that struck her as a great way to elevate the Harvey Weinstein conversation. She took the idea to Twitter, posting: “If you’ve been sexually harassed or assaulted write ‘me too’ as a reply to this tweet.”

That was Sunday night. By Monday night, more than

53,000 people had left comments and thousands of women had declared “Me Too,” sharing their stories of rape, sexual assault and harassment across social media, including some for the first time.

The hashtag was tweeted nearly a million times in 48 hours, according to Twitter. Some left it at, simply: “Me Too,” without explanation, and a small contingent of men have posted: “I Have,” not-

ing shock at the groundswell and remorse for their own past misdeeds. Milano said the idea was to elevate the Harvey Weinstein conversation, placing the emphasis on victims rather than perpetrators and offering a glimpse into the number of women who continue to be victimized. The



Milano

disgraced film mogul has been accused by more than three dozen women of harassment or abuse.

“My hope is people will get the idea of the magnitude, of just how many people have been affected by this in the world, in our lifetimes, in this country,” Milano said in a phone interview with The Associated Press on Monday. “The most important thing that it did was to shift the conversation away from the predator and to the victim.”

The posts have gathered steam beyond Twitter. On Facebook, there were more than 12 million posts, comments and reactions in less than 24 hours, by 4.7 million users around the world, according to the company. In the U.S., Facebook said 45 percent of users have had friends who posted “me too.”

A similar social media trend emerged in 2014. “Yes all women” posts also had women talking about their experiences with sexual harassment and sexism. While Twitter had fewer users in 2014, this hashtag was tweeted 1.2 million times in four days. Additionally, Tarana Burke, a youth activist, started a “Me Too” campaign in 2007 to let other sex abuse survivors know that they were not alone.

Lauren Taylor hopes “Me Too” grows into something more than a passing hashtag. She shared her own story as well. Growing up in Washington, D.C., she recalled near daily street harassment, from men yelling vile things at out of car windows to boys chasing her as she rode her bike. A longtime women’s activist, the 60-year-old Taylor founded a training organization 20 years ago called Defend Yourself, helping women learn “empowerment defense” to ward off physical and emotional attacks in all aspects of their lives.

“The ‘Me Too’ thing has had a transformative effect that is more complex than people probably thought in the beginning,” Taylor said. “Women are disclosing that they’ve been harassed, attacked or abused, sometimes for the first time, and if it isn’t for the first time, it’s for the first time this publicly. The sheer number are unbelievable, and a lot of men are saying, ‘Really, that many?’”

## Witherspoon reveals Hollywood assault; Lawrence talks abuse



Jennifer Lawrence arrives at the 24th annual ELLE Women in Hollywood Awards at the Four Seasons Hotel Beverly Hills on Monday, Oct. 16, 2017, in Los Angeles.

AP

By PATRICK MAIRS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oscar winners Reese Witherspoon and Jennifer Lawrence used their speeches at a Hollywood event honoring women to detail experiences of assault and harassment at the hands of directors and producers and pledged to do more to stop such situations from happening.

Witherspoon told the audience at the Elle Women in Hollywood Awards on Monday night that the recent revelation of decades of sexual misconduct allegations against producer Harvey Weinstein has prompted her own experiences to come back “very vividly.”

Witherspoon said she had “true disgust at the director who assaulted me when I

was 16 years old and anger at the agents and the producers who made me feel that silence was a condition of my employment.”

Witherspoon didn’t name the director. Her publicist didn’t immediately respond to a request Tuesday for further comment.

Lawrence detailed what she called a “degrading and humiliating” experience of being

asked early on in her career to lose 15 pounds in two weeks for a role. She was then forced to pose nude alongside thinner women for photos that she says a female producer told her would serve as inspiration for her diet, she said.

When she tried to speak up about the demands, Lawrence said she couldn’t find a sympathetic ear from those in power.

you know, what they’re asking by just presenting themselves the way they do. What are they asking for? Trouble.”

The designer told WWD, “I made a horrible mistake. I regret it from the bottom of my heart. This is never who I am as a woman.”

Karan has been in the fashion business for 40 years, often championing women’s causes. Her on-camera comments went viral, triggering outrage and a drop in the stock price of

G-111, which has owned the company that bears her name since last year.

The production company Weinstein co-founded fired him Oct. 8, days after he was accused of sexually harassing women for decades in an exposé by The New York Times. Subsequent stories by the Times and The New Yorker included allegations of abuse, and more than three dozen women have publicly accused the disgraced mogul of abuse. He resigned from the board of The Weinstein Co. on Tuesday. Weinstein has denied the allegations.

## Donna Karan begs forgiveness for Harvey Weinstein remarks

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Fashion designer Donna Karan is “apologetic from the bottom of my heart” and embarrassed about “stupid” remarks she made last week that suggested sexual harassment victims were “asking for it” by the way they dressed.

Her comments on a red carpet touched off outrage online following sexual harassment and assault allegations against fallen movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Karan spoke to Women’s Wear Daily in an interview published Monday, saying she spoke while sleep deprived



Karan

and without knowing details of the mounting allegations against Weinstein, telling a red carpet reporter:

“How do we display ourselves, how do we present ourselves as women, what are we asking? Are we asking for it, you know, by presenting all the sensuality and all the sexuality? ... It’s not Harvey Weinstein. You look at everything all over the world today, you know, and how women are dressing and,

Saunders was awarded the prize by Prince Charles’ wife, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, during a ceremony at London’s medieval Guildhall. Accepting his trophy, Saunders said the book’s style may be complex, but the question posed at its heart is simple: Do we respond to uncertain times with fear and division, “or do we take that ancient great leap of faith and try to respond with love?”

The author said he resisted telling the story of Lincoln, an American icon, for 20 years. But the novel, which took four years to write, turned out to be pointedly timely in a divided United States.

Saunders said Lincoln had “a quiet, confident generosity of spirit.”

“He underwent I think a kind of spiritual growth spurt that we don’t see very often,” outgrowing the “lazy, racist attitudes” he was raised with, the author told reporters.

“His compassion and his heart kept growing out even as his own life was becoming more and more difficult,” Saunders said.

“Contrast that with the current administration that seems intent on shrinking the commonwealth of compassion until we can only care about people who are exactly like us. It’s a complete eradication of the American ideal.”

# Lopez, Anthony, Rodriguez raise \$35M for Puerto Rico relief

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Jennifer Lopez, her ex-husband Marc Anthony and her current boyfriend Alex Rodriguez have raised more than \$35 million for Puerto Rico hurricane relief.

A spokeswoman said in a statement Tuesday that the two singers and the retired baseball superstar raised the money in donations, pledges and their own contributions.

About \$9 million was raised via the Oct. 14 benefit show “One Voice: Somos Live! A Concert for Disaster Relief,” which the trio hosted.

Most of the rest came from corporate donations and pledges.

Lopez and Anthony’s parents both came to the United States from Puerto Rico, and Rodriguez’s family is from the

Dominican Republic.

The two singers were married in 2004 and divorced in 2014. Lopez has been dating Rodriguez since early this year.

This Sept. 19, 2017 file photo Jennifer Lopez, left, and Alex Rodriguez arrive at the “World of Dance” Celebration at Delilah in West Hollywood, Calif. AP

## Head of Amazon Studios resigns after harassment charge

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Amazon Studios says it has accepted the resignation of its top executive, Roy Price, following sexual harassment allegations made by a producer on the Amazon series “Man in the High Castle.”

Price was put on leave last week and had not been expected to return. An Amazon spokesman confirmed the resignation Tuesday. Albert Cheng, who had been Amazon’s COO, will be the interim chief.

The accusations against Price came in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal that is roiling Hollywood. Producer Isa Hackett charged in an account published in The Hollywood Reporter that Price had repeatedly and crudely propo-



sitioned her following a 2015 event in San Diego.

A steady stream of women have gone public with accusations against Weinstein after reports by The New York Times and Price The New Yorker about the misconduct claims of others. But it has spread beyond that disgraced executive, with women across the world saying they’d been harassed through the social media thread “me too.”

Hackett said in a statement on Tuesday that she was pleased that Amazon had taken steps to address the issue.

“An important conversation has begun about the need to create a culture in our in-

dustry which values respect and decency and rejects the abuse of power and dehumanizing treatment of others,” she said. “This is truly an opportunity to find a better way forward, and ultimately toward a balanced representation of women and minorities in leadership positions.”

Hackett said in her account on Price that he propositioned her during a cab ride, saying, “you will love my (slang for penis).”

She said he persisted at a company party even after she told him she was a lesbian with a wife and children, even standing near her and loudly saying, “anal sex!”

The Weinstein Co.’s board said in a statement Tuesday that Weinstein had resigned. Weinstein holds a roughly 20 percent stake in his company, according to a person close to Weinstein who was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter. The person



## Harvey Weinstein leaves the board of his film company

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Harvey Weinstein is leaving the board of the film company he started, more than a week after the firm fired him following allegations of sexual harassment and rape.

The Weinstein Co.’s board said in a statement Tuesday that Weinstein had resigned. Weinstein holds a roughly 20 percent stake in his company, according to a person close to Weinstein who was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter. The person

declined to comment on the future of that holding.

His departure from the company comes as it deals with turmoil in the aftermath of more than three dozen women publicly accusing Weinstein of abuse. Industry players have cut ties, or threatened to cut ties, with

The Weinstein Co. The Producers Guild of America has started the process of expelling Weinstein, and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the group

behind the Oscars, has revoked his membership.

Board member Tarak Ben Ammar said Monday that it was negotiating a potential sale of all or part of the company, which was founded in 2005 by Weinstein and his brother Bob Weinstein after they left Disney.

Bob Weinstein had maintained last week that business was continuing “as usual” for the company and that its board was not exploring a sale or shutdown.

## Celebrity-named seal pups rehabilitated, set free on beach

**SANDWICH, Mass.** (AP)—Two celebrity-named harbor seal pups rescued in Maine earlier this year have been rehabilitated and set free on a Massachusetts beach.

“Giseal Bündchen” and “Sealonardo DiCaprio” were released Tuesday on Seusset Beach on Cape Cod by

workers at the nonprofit National Marine Life Center. Video shows the seals make their way toward the water after being set free from their cages.

Giseal, named after supermodel Gisele Bündchen, was taken to the rehabilitation center on Buzzards Bay after

it was found abandoned by its mother on Chebaugue Island, Maine, in June. Sealonardo, named after Academy Award-winning actor Leonardo DiCaprio, also was rescued in Maine, on Great Spruce Head Island, in May.

The pups were taught to swim and eat fish.

## 'Trailer Park Boys' star John Dunsworth dies at 71

**HALIFAX, Nova Scotia** (AP)—A Canadian actor best known for his role as an alcoholic trailer park supervisor in the Netflix comedy series “Trailer Park Boys” has died. John Dunsworth was 71.

His daughter, Sarah Dunsworth, announced his death on Twitter on Monday, say-

ing in a statement that her father died “peacefully after a short and unexpected illness.” She didn’t say where or when Dunsworth died. Ryan Cameron, a spokesman for the actor, tells The Associated Press that he’s “heartbroken and will miss him dearly.”

Dunsworth played Mr. La-

hey on “Trailer Park Boys,” which developed a cult following during its initial run on Canada’s Showcase from 2001 to 2007 before being revived by Netflix in 2014.

Dunsworth also had a recurring role as Dave Teagues for several seasons on the SyFy and Showcase series “Haven.”

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 36-year-old son lives with me, which benefits both of us. I am retired and his income helps. The problem I’m having is he hoards garbage.

It’s terrible. There’s garbage on his bed, and it has reached the ceiling in other parts of the room. This has been going on for many years.

Two years ago, I filled up two large garbage bags to throw out. It didn’t even make a dent. When he got home, he was furious and deducted \$50 from the rent because he felt I needed to have consequences for what I did. I realized then how serious this is. I know it’s a health hazard as well as a fire hazard.

I’m at my wits’ end. I understand this has to do with loss, and he has had many, including a dad who left when I was pregnant. There has been no contact during his lifetime. Please help.

SON’S A HOARDER

AWKWARD IN THE EAST

**DEAR AWKWARD:** Do not get into a squabble between the two women. If Judy prefers not to socialize with Sue, she may not accept an invitation if she knows Sue will be present, which is her privilege. Because you like both couples, see them separately until this blows over—if it ever

## Extreme hoarding poses risk to mom's house and health

**D**EAR ABBY: My 36-year-old son lives with me, which benefits both of us. I am retired and his income helps. The problem I’m having is he hoards garbage.

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SON’S A HOARDER

**DEAR SON’S A HOARDER:** Your son is suffering from a mental disorder. There is help for it—if he is willing to admit that he needs it.

A licensed mental health professional could help him understand why he is hoarding and motivate him to change the habits that have led to it. There are also medications that can lessen his compulsion to hoard. However, it won’t happen

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

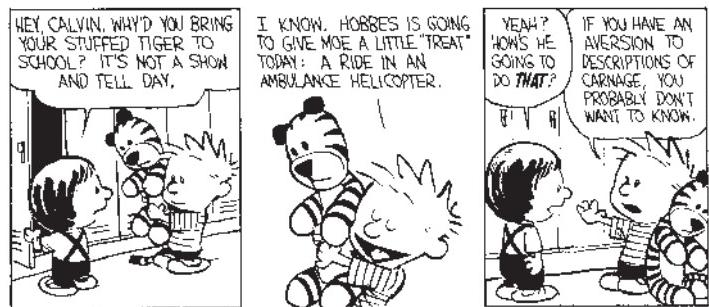
**does. If you are asked why the dynamic has changed, tell Brent the truth about what Judy told you so he won't think it has anything to do with him.**

**DEAR READERS:** Today marks the celebration of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. It spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair. My best wishes to all who celebrate it.

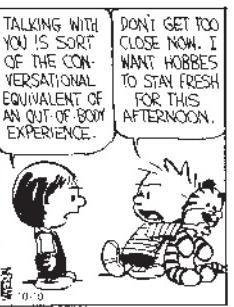
*For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®



By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

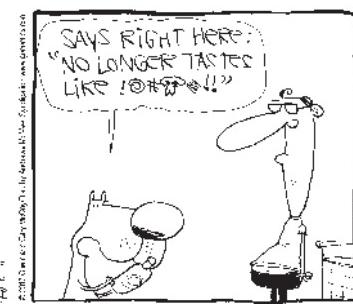


By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41	Dress	2	Tolkien	27	Pitch
1	Feathery	(up)	42	Edge	29	Type
wrap			44	Eccen-	of	program
4	Pile		4	Mon-	30	Apple
8	Get		tan'a's	capital	product	
over-	emotional		5	Right	31	Toy
12	Curved		angle	block		name
line			6	Pub		orders
13	First lady		7	Stickum	33	Type of
of scat			8	Blessing	tile	
14	Wheel-		9	"Oops!"	35	Cold
ing's	river		10	Faction	and	damp
15	Trojan		11	Cobra	38	Frank
War hero			feature	McCourt		McCourt
17	Nitwit		12	narrator	39	memoir
18	Anger		13	Jai —	40	Polecat's
19	Hid		52	Infringe	kin	
(away)			50	Hwy.	43	Encounters
21	California		51	Leeway	45	Judge
city			52	Infringe	Lance	
24	Before		53	Hold	46	Baby
25	Candy-		54	sway	47	carriage
heart	word		55	1 Sheepish	48	Spanish
26	Gallery		1	Mine	greeting	
display			22	remark	49	Big
28	How tuna		23	yield	50	laugh
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32	Mr.				53	Browns,
Guinness					on score-	boards
34	Listener				54	Come-
36	Hoodwink				55	Margaret
37	Jaunty					
chapeau						
39	U.K. fliers					

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 10-19

55 Layer

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chris Kattan, 47; Jon Favreau, 51; Ty Pennington, 53; John Lithgow, 72.

**Happy Birthday:** Be open to change and willing to work with whatever unfolds. Being able to size up a situation and turn it into something that works in your favor will be impressive and make your peers recognize how valuable you are. This is not the year to waffle, but one to take advantage of what's happening around you. Your numbers are 1, 13, 22, 27, 31, 38, 47.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): You'll be unpredictable and easily sidetracked. Plant your feet firmly on the ground and refuse to make a last-minute decision that has the potential to lead you into a predicament that can cause emotional upset. ★★★

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): You'll be pulled into something questionable if you let your emotions take over, causing you to give in to someone who is asking too much of you. Back away before it ends up costing you emotionally or financially. ★★★

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): A change at work will turn in your favor. Do everything in your power to equalize your position with upper management. An important partnership will flourish if you choose charm rather than force to get what you want. ★★★★

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Family and friends will bring out the best in you. You'll be motivated by what others have to say. A short trip or a learning experience will make you see things differently from what you

thought was possible. Speak up. ★★★★

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Moderation will be necessary if you don't want to upset someone close to you. Say little but do a lot to show your appreciation. A personal change to the way you treat someone will have an impact on your relationship. ★★★★

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A deal will not be as good as it appears. Look for any flaws before you invest in something you know little about. Stay focused on your responsibilities and finding ways to increase your income. Think big and be creative, but remain prudent. ★★★

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A creative approach will help you hold the attention of whomever you are dealing with. Your vision will be remarkable. Sharing how you see situations unfolding will give hope to those with less insight. Take a position of leadership. ★★★

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Look for any opportunity to get ahead professionally or financially. Look over settlements, investments and matters that can influence your health. Don't fear being different. Do your own thing and you will get the greatest satisfaction. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put everything you've got into bringing about positive change. Someone will have interesting ideas, but that doesn't mean you should deviate from your plans. Follow your gut feeling and make the changes you see fit. Romance is in the stars. ★★★★

**BIRTHDAY BABY:** You are thoughtful, imaginative and helpful. You are reticent and powerful.

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Communication will be met with discord. If you can't agree, it may be best to walk away. Put your time, energy and commitment into something tangible that will bring you something in return. Think big but stick to basics. ★★★

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make a commitment to spend more time with someone you love. Show how much you care and you will enjoy what you receive in return. Now is not the time to overreact. Offer love and affection and live in the moment. ★★★★★

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be tempted to invest in something that isn't likely to pay the rewards you are expecting. A cautious approach will save you from loss. Explore other possibilities, but don't feel like you have to make an impulsive decision. ★★★

**BIRTHDAY BABY:** You are thoughtful, imaginative and helpful. You are reticent and powerful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

8	9		5						
3	6		1						
4		2		8					
	1			9					
7	8		2						
2		5	2						
1	5		2						
5	3			4					
8	6	7							

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	7	6	8	9	3	1	4	5
4	9	8	1	7	5	3	6	2
1	3	5	4	6	2	9	8	7
5	2	9	7	1	6	4	3	8
8	1	7	5	3	4	2	9	6
3	6	4	9	2	8	7	5	1
6	4	3	2	5	1	8	7	9
9	5	2	3	8	7	6	1	4
7	8	1	6	4	9	5	2	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/19

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

### STRENGTH TRAINING

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#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Meeting on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (room E) in San Jose Village, Tinian.

#### AGENDA

##### I. PRELIMINARY

1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes
- October 05, 2017

##### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

##### III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion regarding Fall 2017 graduate denial letters

##### IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER

##### V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

##### VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Antonio L. Borja  
Chairman'

#### Legislative Bureau

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

#### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-18-001 Position: Assistant Sergeant at Arms  
PL-UNGRADED: \$ 816.12 B/W  
\$ 21,219.07 Annual

The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee

**Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mañas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan**

General Duties:

- Responsible for the safety & security of members of the Legislature;
- Attends all session, public hearings and any other legislative meeting as designated by the Presiding Officer;
- Records and maintains the Chamber's legislative meetings as scheduled and maintains order and security during sessions and meetings;
- Delivers official documents, serves subpoenas, and performs other duties as instructed by the Presiding Officer, official rules, or other legislative authority;
- Prepares the chamber prior to scheduled legislative meetings and maintains its security during the interim;
- Inspects and operates the chamber's sound/video system and responsible for the maintenance of the chamber;
- Records and maintains visitor's log sheet on a daily basis; and
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#### Qualifications and Requirements:

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Employment application may be accessed at [www.cnmiley.gov.mp](http://www.cnmiley.gov.mp) or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mañas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed, postmarked no later than the closing date to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

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**WHATZIT?**

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**NINE CUMULUS**

# Dodgers close in on World Series with win over Cubs

**CHICAGO** (AP)—For the Los Angeles Dodgers, it's beginning to look a lot like 1988.

Yu Darvish pitched sparkling ball into the seventh inning, Chris Taylor homered again and the Dodgers beat the Chicago Cubs 6-1 on Tuesday night to open a 3-0 lead in the NL Championship Series.

Andre Ethier also went deep and Taylor added an RBI triple in the fifth as Los Angeles set a franchise record with its sixth consecutive playoff win. Yasiel Puig had two more hits in another entertaining performance that included an impressive bat flip—on a long foul ball in the first inning.

Looking for a four-game sweep and their 22nd NL pennant, the Dodgers will send Alex Wood to the mound Wednesday night at Wrigley Field with a chance to reach the World Series for the first time since Tommy Lasorda managed Kirk Gibson, Orel Hershiser and company to the championship 29 years ago. Jake Arrieta, eligible for free agency after the season, pitches for the Cubs in what could be his final start with the team.

Los Angeles was eliminated by Chicago in the NLCS last year, but this is a different group of Dodgers. Their patient lineup is coming up big in key spots and their pitching staff is much deeper, especially since Darvish was acquired in a trade with Texas in the final minutes before the July 31 deadline.

Not even a return to Wrigley Field could get the Cubs back on track after a rough stay in Los Angeles. Chicago manager Joe Maddon jiggled his lineup, inserting Kyle Schwarber into the No. 2 slot and benching slumping second baseman Javier Baez, but the defending World Series champions were shut down by another Dodgers starter and more stellar relief from the NL West champions.

Making their third straight appearance in the NLCS, the weary Cubs also hurt themselves with a couple of big mistakes. Carl Edwards Jr. walked Darvish on four pitches with the bases loaded and two outs in the sixth, continuing a rocky postseason for the reliever and leading to a round of boos from a frustrated crowd of 41,871. A passed ball brought home another run in the eighth, and pinch-hitter Kyle Farmer hit a sacrifice fly to make it 6-1.

Darvish departed after striking out Addison Russell in the seventh, pausing for congratulations from his whole infield before heading to the dugout. The Japanese right-hander allowed six hits, including Schwarber's first-inning homer, in his second career play-



Chicago Cubs' Javier Baez, left, tags out Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig at second base during the ninth inning of Game 3 of baseball's National League Championship Series, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017, in Chicago. AP

off drive in the second and Taylor's second homer of the series in the third, a mammoth shot to center off losing pitcher Kyle Hendricks.

Ethier had two hits in his first start of this year's playoffs after he missed most of the season with a herniated lumbar disk. Taylor also had two hits and is 4 for 14 for the series, helping make up for the loss of All-Star shortstop Corey Seager to a back injury.

Meanwhile, Wood, who had a career-high 16 wins this season, will make his first appearance since Sept. 26. He was lined up for Game 4 of the NLDS, but the Dodgers swept the Diamondbacks in three games. "It has its pluses and negatives," Wood said of the layoff. "I've stayed on a semi-regular schedule. I've had two (simulated) games in between against a lot of our regular guys in our lineup."

Arrieta has pitched just 14 1/3 innings since Aug. 30, including four innings of two-hit ball against Washington in Game 4 of the NLDS. The 2015 NL Cy Young Award winner was hampered by a right hamstring injury at the end of the season.

as reality," he said. "To be out with the crowd and the atmosphere, it was unbelievable."

The 35-minute bottom of the eighth was the latest stunning comeback for New York, which has overcome deficits of three or more 11 times this year, including in the wild-card game against Minnesota.

Houston had not lost consecutive games since Sept. 8-10 at Oakland and had the major leagues' best road record during the regular season. The Astros are hitting .153 in the series.

"We're not going to hit the panic button because we lost two games in a row," Correa said. "We got Keuchel going tomorrow."

McCullers cruised in his first start since Sept. 30 and turned over a 4-1 lead to his bullpen.

"He was awesome," manager A.J. Hinch said. "And really proud of him because I know how important this start was for him."

Yankees starter Sonny Gray pitched one-hit ball through five innings. His teammates have yet to score for him in four career postseason starts while he's still on the mound, including twice with New York this year.

## Judge HR sparks Yankees; ALCS now even

**NEW YORK** (AP)—With a soaring shot headed for Monument Park, Aaron Judge got New York back on course for another memorable October.

Yankee Stadium sounds like it's ready, too.

"That ballpark is alive," Judge said after this latest rousing rally.

Judge ignited a comeback with a home run, then hit a tying double during a four-run eighth inning to spur the unflappable Yankees over the Houston Astros 6-4 Tuesday night and tie the AL Championship Series 2-2.

The Baby Bombers trailed 4-0 against starter Lance McCullers Jr. until Judge homered leading off the seventh. He tied it with a line drive that nearly left the park in the eighth and scored when Gary Sanchez hit a go-ahead two-run double off loser Ken Giles.

"I didn't know what to do after I touched home plate," Judge said. "I can't describe it."

The Yankees overcame three errors and have roared back from a second straight 0-2 series deficit -- they beat Cleveland in the Division

ninth. With manager Dave Roberts pushing all the right buttons, Los Angeles' bullpen has yet to allow a run in the series.

The Cubs finished with eight hits, one more than in the first two games combined.

The only four-game postseason sweep for the Dodgers came in the 1963 World Series against the New York Yankees. If Los Angeles can finish off Chicago on Wednesday, the Dodgers would have days off before hosting the

Yankees or Houston Astros in the World Series opener.

Schwarber's sixth career postseason homer got Chicago off to a fast start, but Jon Jay struck out with two on to end the inning. The Dodgers responded with Ethier's lead-

Series by winning three in a row to take that best-of-five matchup.

Aroldis Chapman struck out two in a perfect ninth to cap a three-hitter and get the save. Before a sellout crowd of 48,804, New York improved to 5-0 at home in the playoffs and won for the 18th time in its last 21 home games.

"Every home game has been special," manager Joe Girardi said. "I just feel like the fans are back. And I see things that I haven't seen in a while, and it reminds me a lot of when I was playing here."

Yankee Stadium will be rocking again when Masahiro Tanaka pitches for New York against Dallas Keuchel in Game 5 Wednesday. It's a rematch of the series opener, when Keuchel outdid the Japanese right-hander in a 2-1 Astros win.

An AL MVP candidate mired in a sluggish October, Judge sparked the Yankees by chasing McCullers, who baffled the Yankees with his power breaking ball.

Except for the last one.

Judge launched a curveball into the netting above center

field's Monument Park for New York's second hit.

"I thought Aaron's home run just lit a little spark," Girardi said.

Houston manager A.J. Hinch pulled McCullers after 81 pitches, Didi Gregorius tripled off Chris Devenski and Sanchez brought Gregorius in with a sacrifice fly.

Todd Frazier led off the eighth with a single to left, and pinch-hitter Chase Headley, in a 1-for-18 postseason slide, singled. He lost his balance stepping on first, fell en route to second, then took a step back before continuing on and getting his left hand in ahead of Jose Altuve's tag.

"Just stumbled and stumbled and stumbled and finally went down," Headley said. "I went from one of the best feelings of my career to one of the worst in just a matter of seconds."

Headley was awarded second after a video review, and the ballpark boomed when crew chief Gary Cederstrom gave the signal. It got so loud that on-deck hitter Brett Gardner said he "kind of blacked out for a second."

Gardner brought in Frazier on a groundout, and Judge came to bat with the bundled, buzzing crowd on its feet.

He lunged for a low slider and drilled a double high off the left-field wall as a fan in a longsleeve yellow shirt reached down and touched the ball. Pinch-runner Jacoby Ellsbury came home with the tying run, and Gregorius grounded a single just beyond shortstop Carlos Correa's reach to put runners at the corner. Sanchez, who had been 0 for 13 in the series, scored them both with a slicing drive that skipped to the wall in right-center.

"Those guys came up big for us today," Girardi said. Judge had multiple hits for the first time since the AL wild-card game against Minnesota. He's still just 7 for 37 with 22 strikeouts in the playoffs, but he's 4 for 13 (.308) with three walks in the ALCS. He also homered in an 8-1 Game 3 win.

Judge said he used to dream about postseason at-bats in Yankee Stadium as a minor leaguer. "The dreams aren't the same

# Hayward suffers gruesome injury in opener



**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Just five minutes into his Boston career, new Celtics star forward Gordon Hayward gruesomely broke his left ankle, an injury that may end his season.

Hayward, who signed a four-year, \$128 million free agent contract this summer, went up for an alley-oop pass midway through the first quarter and collided with LeBron James. Hayward's leg twisted underneath him as he came back to the floor. The 27-year-old collapsed under the basket and looked in horror as his left foot was pointing outward.

He put his hands to his face and dropped back to the floor as a hush fell over the charged sellout crowd inside Quicken Loans Arena, which had come to boo Kyrie Irving in his return to Cleveland after being traded to Boston this summer.

Hayward's new teammates huddled in prayer at their bench as a distressed James covered his mouth and several Cleveland players nearby looked away. Hayward had his leg placed in an air cast, and James came over and consoled him before he was pushed from the floor on a stretcher and taken for treatment.

**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)**—Confetti began to fall and the Golden State Warriors thought they had pulled off a wild opening-night win.

The Houston Rockets emphatically signaled otherwise—insisting that Kevin Durant's baseline jumper had swished through the net after the buzzer.

After one official got hurt, two remaining referees reviewed the play and ruled the Rockets had escaped with a 122-121 victory Tuesday on the night the Warriors received their championship rings.

"I thought it had a chance but I knew it was a little late. I knew I was cutting it close," Durant said. "Tough loss. First game of 82, we've definitely got to move on. We've got to get better."

The Warriors got the ball for one final chance with 10.6 seconds left and Durant came



Boston Celtics' Gordon Hayward grimaces in pain in the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Cleveland Cavaliers, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017, in Cleveland. Hayward broke his left ankle after the fall.

jerseys from the four teams playing on the NBA's opening night will be auctioned to raise money for hurricane recovery efforts.

The NBA and Turner Sports, which will televise the Cleveland-Boston and Golden State-Houston doubleheader on TNT, will use the auction to benefit the One America Appeal.

Besides the jerseys, the auction will include items such as game-worn sneakers and autographed items donated by Turner commentators.

The One America Appeal was launched by the five living former U.S. presidents to support the recovery efforts from Hurricane Harvey and was later expanded to include areas most affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

The auction begins Tuesday night and continues through the first two weeks of the season. Information is available at <http://bleacherreport.com/hurricanerelief>.

seasons of his career.

LeBron James scored 29 points—13 in the fourth quarter—in his most extensive action in three weeks because of a sprained left ankle. The superstar also fed Kevin Love for a critical 3-pointer with 46.3 seconds left to put the Cavs up, 102-98.

Irving, who asked to be traded this summer after six seasons in Cleveland, had a chance to tie it with a 3-pointer at the horn but his shot was short. As the crowd exhaled, Irving shared a warm handshake and embrace with James, his teammate for three seasons and the one he wanted to get away from by demanding a trade this summer.

Jaylen Brown scored 25 and Irving 22 and 10 assists for the Celtics, who overcame an 18-point deficit in the third and led with 2:04 left.

and short irons to the longer clubs. But he's still doing it in a really cautious manner."

Woods was an assistant captain at the Presidents Cup two weeks ago, and he said then his priorities were to get his health in order, make sure he is pain-free and then wait on word from his doctors.

"I'm still training. I'm getting stronger," he said on Sept. 27. "But I certainly don't have my golf muscles trained."

## Durant's jumper waved off; Rockets stun Warriors

up with the ball after Stephen Curry had missed.

"I didn't think it counted," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "When I saw it, it looked to me like it was a little late. Didn't surprise me it was overturned."

Trevor Ariza's 3-pointer with 2:09 remaining pulled Houston within 119-118 then Patrick McCaw hit a baseline jumper immediately after Golden State's timeout. James Harden made a layup and PJ Tucker hit two free throws with 44.1 to make it 122-121.

Nick Young came off the bench to hit six 3-pointers and score 23 points in a brilliant Warriors debut, Curry scored 22 points and Durant had 20 after a slow start. Klay Thompson added 16 points.

Chris Paul had four points

on 2-for-9 shooting in his Rockets debut, while Harden scored 27 points, Eric Gordon 24 and Tucker 20 for the Rockets. Houston opened the fourth with a 9-0 run to get back in it.

"It's very encouraging to be able to beat a great team like that on a huge night for them," Anderson said.

The Warriors found their rhythm early but couldn't close it out after an abbreviated preseason in terms of practice time given their recent trip to China for a pair of games against Minnesota.

Draymond Green exited in the second half with a strained left knee after he contributed nine points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds.

"When we're lacking conditioning like we are right

now you have to have your high-energy guys," Kerr said. "It doesn't matter what it's because of, we just have to get in better shape."

Still, this opener was a far cry for the forgettable 129-100 defeat at home to San Antonio in Durant's Warriors debut a year ago when Golden State came off a record 73-win season and runner-up finish to Cleveland in the 2016 Finals.

"I just remember the last game of the season we played," Durant said of the Game 5 Finals clincher in June.

Young found his stroke right away, hitting his first four 3s and five shots overall. It's exactly what the Warriors want him to do: shoot every time he has a good look. His six 3-pointers set a franchise record for anyone in their

Warriors debut and also in a season opener.

Durant had one spectacular sequence in the third when he blocked Anderson's shot on one end then converted a three-point play moments later on the other, slapping hands with a lucky boy fan on the baseline.

Houston acquired Paul from the Clippers to give them a 1-2 backcourt punch to try to gain ground on Golden State in the Western Conference.

### Cavaliers 102, Celtics 99

In Cleveland, in an epic battle against one of their Eastern Conference rivals, the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night, spoiling Kyrie Irving's return to the city he spent the first six



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Tiger Woods is swinging a driver without pain, and his agent says doctors have cleared him to practice without limitations.

Still to be determined is when Woods can play in a tournament.

"We haven't even addressed when he comes back to play again. We have not addressed one thing," said Mark Steinberg, his agent at

## Woods cleared for golf activities with no restrictions

Excel Sports Management. "He wants to play this so conservatively."

Steinberg said Woods received a "good report" last week from doctors who performed fusion surgery on his lower back in April. Woods posted a video on Twitter on Oct. 7 of him hitting a smooth iron shot. Then on Sunday,

Woods posted another video—in a red shirt, no less—hitting a driver.

"Making progress," he tweeted.

Woods, whose last victory was four years ago at the Bridgestone Invitational for his record 18th World Golf Championships title, has not played since he withdrew from the

Dubai Desert Classic on Feb. 3 because of back spasms.

Two months later, he had a fourth surgery on his back in 19 months.

Woods first posted a video on Aug. 31 hitting pitch shots. Steinberg said doctors last week "allowed him to proceed with no restrictions," which is when he began posting video

of fuller golf shots.

"He has started to hit balls at a more aggressive rate," Steinberg said. "He feels really good, but he's going to take it very slowly. I think he's excited that he's not feeling pain. That's what gets him excited, being able to bend down and pick up his kids."

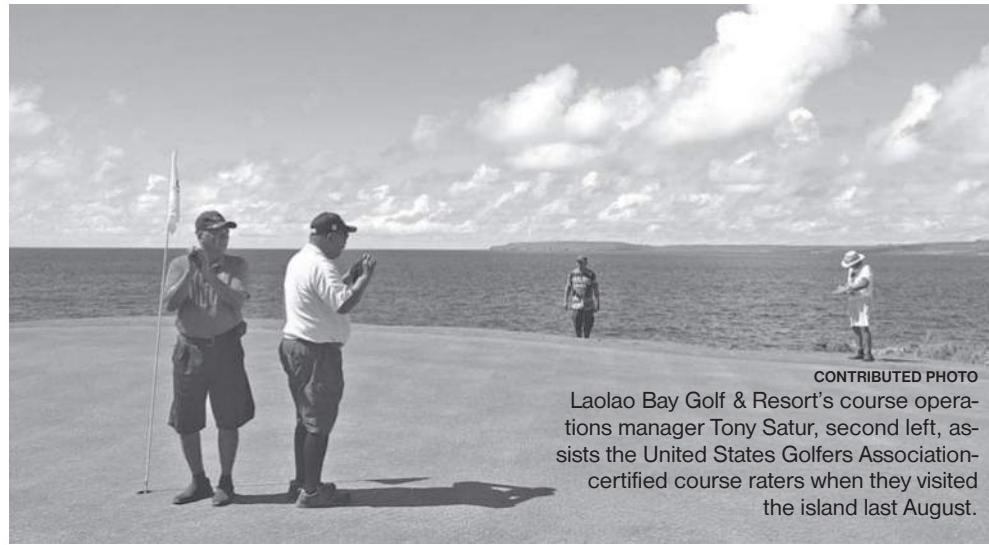
"He's taking it from wedges

# NMI golf courses earn USGA ratings

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

 CNMI Federation of Golf Associations president David Largent welcomed the official ratings given by the United States Golf Association to Saipan's five golf courses—including the nine-hole Saipan Country Club.

The course and slope rating was conducted by a four-member group led by Guam National Golf Federation ratings administrator Andriano E. Balajadia, who is also a



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's course operations manager Tony Satur, second left, assists the United States Golfers Association-certified course raters when they visited the island last August.

## 60 Japanese sign up for Rota Blue

Sixty athletes from Japan have already registered for the 23rd Annual Rota Blue Triathlon set for Nov. 18.

A long-time favorite of Japanese triathletes who return year after year to compete, this year the triathlon is also seeking to attract more competitors from Guam and neighboring countries.

According to Kiyokazu Onishi, president of Kiyokazu Fitness Club and co-creator of the Rota Blue Triathlon, triathlon magazine LUMINA and the nationwide Tokyo Broadcasting System are slated to cover the event.

"The return of the triathlon this year is good news for

Rota, and we are very appreciative of the Rota Mayor's office, Marianas Visitors Authority, and the community for the partnership," said Onishi. "It's a great exposure for Rota. We have even been approached by worldwide triathlon organization Ocean Lava to join their world series event."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
A rider negotiates the 40-kilometer bike course in the 21st Annual Rota Blue Triathlon held on Nov. 15, 2014. The 23rd Annual Rota Blue Triathlon will be held on Nov. 18 and is jointly organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority, Rota Mayor's Office, and Kiyokazu Fitness Club of Japan.



## SEBAKLIM

From Page 28

left stranded once Nakamura settled in. Fred Songao then grounded to Cedric Camacho for the first out, while Devyn Flores caught a Shak Rangamar linedrive and the inning ended when Nakamura struck out A.J. Lizama.

It was the Pirates' turn at the bottom half with the Cubs needing three outs to secure

the win. John Reyes grounded out, but K.J. Deleon Guerrero singled to represent the tying run. Nakamura was then hit by an A.J. Lizama pitch and advanced together with K.J. Deleon Guerrero on a Kiku Lizama error. The Pirates had some anxious moments after Nathan Camacho struck out swinging as the Cubs moved one out away from taking the win.

However, Sebaklim was there to spoil the Cubs' bid,

as he played the hero for the Pirates managed by Derron Flores and coached by Jack Guerrero. The Pirates' designated hitter brought A.J. Lizama's first pitch to a gap at right field to bring in Deleon Guerrero, while Nakamura followed suit as it took the Cubs some time to make the relay throw to home plate.

The Pirates-Cubs duel was a pitching and defensive battle as the opposing teams bull-

Rota Blue Triathlon is an annual signature event of the MVA.

"We're looking forward to a great race on Nov. 18," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "We hope to see more athletes from The Marianas and Guam take advantage of this great reason to escape to Rota for an unforgettable race."

The triathlon features two distances: A-type half-marathon distance, which includes a 1.5-kilometer swim, followed by a 40K rigorous biking course and a 10K run (no time limit); and B-type Olympic distance, which includes a 2K swim, followed by a 90K biking course and topped off with a 21K run (8-hour time limit). For team competitors, there will also be triathlon of the A-type distance, again with no time limit.

The pre-race briefing for all participants will be held on Nov. 17 at Rota Resort &

pens worked their way on the mound, while their fielders were busy catching linedrives and pop flies to keep the game close.

Ethan Babauta and A.J. Lizama gave up six hits to the Pirates and had six walks and 12 strikeouts.

L.J. Sebaklim and Nakamura, on the other hand, yielded a combined seven hits to the Cubs and totaled for nine walks while fanning nine.

Matansa, scoring in the seventh and 30th minute, respectively.

As for Shirley's side, Jack Phan handed the team its first goal in the 25th minute, while Jedidah Peteru drilled the other one six minutes later.

After its debut win, Matansa will go for back-to-back this Sunday when it takes on the CNMI Women's Team at 4pm at the Koblerville Elementary School Field. Matansa edged Shirley's, 4-2.

Kamrul Kamrul knocked in a pair of goals for Matansa with his first in the 37th minute breaking the deadlock and his second in the 61st giving his squad the insurance. Amzad Khan and Michiteru Mita tallied the two other goals for

USGA certified course rater.

Balajadia along with Joe James, Jay Huff, and Duke Delisle arrived in the last week of August to assist in rating the island's golf courses. All four are certified USGA golf course raters.

Largent said the course ratings given to Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, Kingfisher Golf Links, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort (east and west), Marianas Country Club, and SCC is positive news for Saipan's golf community and industry as a whole.

"Having the golf courses rated not only gives credibility, but allows a USGA handicap system to be implemented where golfers of all skills can compete together and play anywhere else in the world,"

said Largent.

"The most important aspect of the handicap system is also to give foundation to our junior golfers who plan to develop their skills and play competitively in tournaments outside the CNMI. Having a valid handicap is a requirement," he added.

CNMI golfers need to be member of a public golf course that provides handicap services or a golf club and both must provide services for a fee that is included in membership dues to allow players to earn a USGA handicap. Golfers then need to post their scores throughout the year once they earned their USGA handicap to maintain the system's equality.

The handicap would accurately reflect the type of golfer they are and players must have at least five scores to establish a handicap. A golf handicap and information network can be found on the USGA website and golfers can post their scores whether they played in the US or in the CNMI.

Largent added that the CFGA would work closely with the eight member associations under their group aside from the management of the five golf courses to effectively implement the new handicapping system.

This is the first time in more than 10 years that Saipan's golf courses are rated. The inspection updated the course ratings of all golf courses and at the same time made it official the handicapping system to every golfer in the Commonwealth.

Country Club at 6:30pm. Starting time for both distances is 6:30am at Rota's East Harbor. Wetsuits are permitted, while bike helmets are required.

Registration fees are lower this year: \$60 for A-type course solo competitors and \$50 for each member in the team event. The fee for the B-type course is \$80. The entry fee includes event T-shirt, high-quality swim cap, and an invitation to the awards banquet.

For more information or an application, visit the Events Calendar at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com) or contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ed Diaz at 1-670-664-3210 or [ediaz@mymarianas.com](mailto:ediaz@mymarianas.com), or contact Sandra Atalig at the MVA Rota Office at 1-670-532-0327 or [satalig@mymarianas.com](mailto:satalig@mymarianas.com). (MVA)

## SILENCER

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the 12-team league.

The lefty Fernando was off to the races, making the Silencer's first 7 points and finishing the opening frame with 11, while Fitial chipped in 7 to lift their team to a 23-15 advantage.

Fitial and Fernando consistently hit their targets in the ensuing plays, but could not help the Silencer pull away, as Lauron kept Black Mamba in the thick of the fight. Fernando and Fitial teamed up for all, but one of the Silencer's baskets in the third period that ended with Black Mamba down by only 4, 59-63.

In the fourth quarter, the Silencer's 1-2 punch was still unstoppable, while Lauron carried most of the load for Black Mamba, causing the latter to miss its fourth win.

Meanwhile, in the third game last Sunday, White Haus coasted past the Green Archers, 96-80.

After falling behind in the first quarter, 21-27, White Haus buckled down to work in the second and then pulled away in the third period en route to the 16-point winning margin. White Haus now has a 4-2 record for fourth place in

the team standings behind the unbeaten Tropang Ridhors (5-0), Silencer (4-1), and Black Mamba (3-1). The Green Archers are at the cellar after going winless in five games.

Jun Tabora and Darwin Barbo had another good offensive game for White Haus, scoring 27 and 24 points, respectively. They also drew help from Arjay Nonato and Nate Mateo, who combined for 26 markers. Frank Ferrer was the lone bright spot for the Green Archers after logging 25 points.

## Second Game

Silencer 92 — Fernando 33, Fitial 31, Usi 10, Perez 6, Sevilla 4, Morales 3, Culala 2, Areza 2.

Black Mamba 86 — Lauron 42, Odicata 17, Ibanez 13, Capalad 8, Lansang 6.

Scoring by quarters: 23-15, 44-39, 63-59, 92-86.

## Third Game

White Haus 96 — Tabora 27, Barbo 24, Nonato 15, Mateo 11, Quizon 7, Ocampo 6, Villasan 2, Hernandez 2.

Green Archers 80 — Ferrer 25, Tolentino 12, Pestillo 11, Demapan 10, Danipog 9, Enriquez 8.

Scoring by quarters: 21-27, 45-44, 70-58, 96-80.

# 2017 NMA All Schools Cross Country Race Series 2

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Junghee Kim, right, runs with her daughter and Saipan International School student Dana Lee during the 2017 Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Race Series 2 held last Oct. 7 at the Airport Field.



Three Agape Christian School runners complete the three-lap course.



A runner in the U9 division completes the race course in his division.



Two students from Mt. Carmel School slow down as they complete the race.



An Agape Christian School runner nears the finish line.



A young runner tries to keep pace with the other participants.



An Agape Christian School student, left, tries to outpace another participant.



A Mt. Carmel School student runs ahead of Agape Christian School's Jonathan Xiong.



Dodgers close  
in on World  
Series with  
win over Cubs

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Hayward  
suffers  
gruesome injury  
in opener

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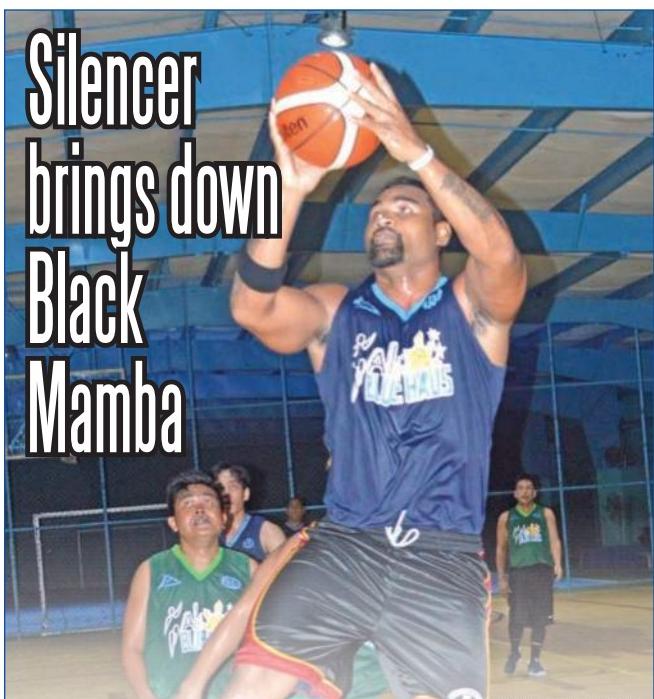
28 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Teen Ayuyus, TanHoldings win debuts



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Paire Football Club's Gerard Van Gils, second left, battles Kanoa Football Club players in a footrace during their debut game in Division A of the M-League at the Hopwood Middle School Field.



## Silencer brings down Black Mamba

The Silencer's Kelvin Fitials takes off for an open shot during their game against the Green Archers in the IT&E sponsored Ali'i Blue Haus caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. The Silencer and Green Archers had mixed fortunes last Sunday with the former winning over Black Mamba and the latter losing to White Haus.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Kelvin Fitial and Angelo Fernando powered the Silencer past the Black Mamba, 92-86, during their game in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Fernando scored 33 points,

while Fitial added 31 to offset the 42-point explosion of Alex Lauron and hand Black Mamba its first loss in four games. While Silencer snapped Black Mamba's winning run, the former managed to extend its streak to four after losing its debut in

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By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club and the Teen Ayuyus prevailed in their respective opening games, while Okada and MP United FC notched their first win in the fall season of the M-League.

The Teen Ayuyus, who are made up of the CNMI Boys U18 and U15 players, debuted

against Sun Palace last Sunday at the Hopwood Middle School Field and cruised to

a 4-0 victory in their Division A match. Joshua Abragan scored two goals for the Teen Ayuyus, while Anthony Fruit and John Michael Rojas added one apiece. Abragan hit the board on successive fashion, making his first in the 36th minute and the second two minutes later. Fruit had his goal in the 52nd minute, while Rojas closed out for the Teen Ayuyus in the 56th.

TanHoldings duplicated the Teen Ayuyus' easy win in Division A after downing newcomer Okada, 4-1. Three different players contributed to TanHoldings' cause with Martin Jambor starting things out for the squad with his goal in the 10th minute. The next goal came eight minutes later, courtesy of Joshua Galarion, while the

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## Sebaklim walk-off hit lifts Pirates over Cubs

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

 Lorenzo Sebaklim delivered the walk-off hit to lift the Pirates to a 4-3 win over the GSM Cubs as action in the Saipan Baseball League's Under-25 division returned last Tuesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

It was only the second U25 game completed this month as the unpredictable weather caused the cancellation of several matches in the division the last few weeks. The Cubs defeated the Falcons last Thursday, 7-5, in the other completed game.

The Pirates-Cubs match pushed through after a 10-min-



ute rain delay and went into extra innings, dragging on for almost four hours as the opposing teams battled to a 2-2 draw before the latter scored at the top of the 10th, putting pressure to the Pirates.

Henry Lizama had a leadoff single for the Cubs and scored the go-ahead run on a Franco Nakamura wild pitch. Peyton Lizama walked to put another runner on base but was

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JON PEREZ  
Pirates manager Derron Flores, right, talks to one of his players as the GSM Cubs make a pitching change in their game in the U25 division of the Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.